

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Closing the Gap

Senator: Senator Zed Seselja

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

1. The original plan by the Howard Government was to build a 40 bed school student hostel at Weipa. The previous government changed this and announced that it would build a 120 bed hostel at Weipa.
2. I understand that currently there are around 53 students enrolled at the Weipa Hostel. Is this correct?
3. Was a feasibility study done?
4. Was the feasibility study done after the announcement by the former Minister?
5. How many of the 53 students come from the nearby hostel that predated the current facility?

Answer:

2. The operator of the facility, the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training, advises that, as at 14 March 2014, there were 50 students enrolled at the campus.
3. Yes. The Australian Government commissioned GHD to undertake a Technical Feasibility Study. The Technical Feasibility Study followed an earlier demographic study commissioned by the Queensland Government. The demographic study highlights the demand for secondary school education across Cape York and notes: "A plan to provide 120 places, as indicated in interviews with stakeholders, in the short term can be progressed with an appropriate confidence level."
4. Yes. The Hon Jenny Macklin MP announced the facility in March 2008. The demographic study was completed by Deloitte in June 2008 and the Technical Feasibility Study was completed in January 2009.
5. The Queensland Government advises that, as at 14 March 2014, there were eight students from the nearby hostel that predated the current facility.