

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** Remote School Attendance Strategy

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 308

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Is the evaluation of the Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) complete?

- a. If so, when was it provided to the Government?
- b. Was the \$80 million extension announced before the evaluation was completed?
- c. Were student-to-teacher ratios included in that evaluation?
- d. Did the evaluation process assess the effectiveness of implementation or value for money of the program?

**Answer:**

A report that mainly covers progress in the first year of implementation has been completed. This report includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The quantitative analysis suggests that RSAS has had a positive independent impact on school attendance..

The quantitative findings were available prior to the announcement of the RSAS extension on 24 September 2015. Student to teacher ratios were not explicitly analysed in the evaluation and it does not assess the value for money of the programme. Most of the benefits of better school attendance will be seen through factors such as greater Year 12 completion rates and improved employment outcomes. These longer-term outcomes will not be evident for some time.

While not shown in the evaluation some analysis has been undertaken on the likely benefits of the programme. This analysis suggests that the likely long-term gains from improved attendance in Queensland and the NT are considerably higher than the costs of the programme.