

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011–2012**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0202\_12

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

***Indigenous Education***

**Question**

The portfolio budget statement lists education initiatives for indigenous students. The Sporting Chance Program; Indigenous Youth Leadership Program; Additional 200 Teachers in the Northern Territory Initiative; and the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program all end in 2012.

- What has been the success rate of these programs?
- Why are they ending?
- Will they be replaced with other initiatives?

Table 2.2.3 portfolio budget statement, pg 62, shows a drop in spending for Indigenous Education of about \$18 million from 2011–12 to 2012–13 which remains about this level the following two years – can you explain this?

**Answer**

- What has been the success rate of these programs?

**Sporting Chance Program**

In 2010, the average attendance rate for the secondary students participating in the academies element of the Sporting Chance Program was 77 per cent, compared to 73 per cent for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within these schools not participating in the Sporting Chance program.

**Indigenous Youth Leadership Program**

In 2010, 74 students who commenced Year 12 with the support of this program completed successfully.

**Additional 200 Teachers**

As at the beginning of the 2011 school year, a total of 191.9 Full Time Equivalent teachers were in place, with: 165.9 in Northern Territory Department of Education and Training schools; 22 in Catholic schools and four in Independent Schools. Reporting from both sectors indicates the measure is on track to meet its target of 200 teachers by the end of 2012.

**Indigenous Youth Mobility Program**

In 2010, 399 young people relocated to one of the Program's host locations to undertake training, with 128 accredited Vocational Education and Training and higher education course completions.

- Why are they ending?

Ordinarily, funding under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* is provided on a four-yearly basis, with the most recent quadrennium providing financial support over 2009–2012, imposing nominal end dates on most programs funded under that Act. On 8 September 2011 the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* was extended by Parliament to include an additional calendar year (2013) to realign the legislation with the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*.

- Will they be replaced with other initiatives?

Future funding arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school education will be considered by Government in the context of the Review of Funding for Schooling.

- Table 2.2.3 portfolio budget statement, pg 62, shows a drop in spending for Indigenous Education of about \$18 million from 2011–12 to 2012–13 which remains about this level the following two years – can you explain this?

*Table 2.2.3 'administered expenses and key performance indicators for program 2.3'* on page 62 of the Department's Portfolio Budget Statements 2011–12, incorporates six programs under the Indigenous Education line. Funding for two of these programs, the Northern Territory Emergency Response Nutrition (referred to as the School Nutrition Program) and the Indigenous Secondary Scholarships Corporate Partnership, ceases in 2011–2012, accounting for the drop in funding in the forward years.

The School Nutrition Program is funded until 30 June 2012 as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. The Australian Government is currently considering its future directions for the Northern Territory Emergency Response, and the School Nutrition Program will be considered through that process.

The Australian Government provided funding to the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation to leverage corporate investment and provide secondary scholarships. The funding was provided over 2009–2012, but will continue to support students over 20 years.