

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011–2012

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0226_12

Senator Scullion provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Funding Payments under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is asked to provide a breakdown of specific indigenous funding payments under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*, excluding general recurrent payments, segmented by program(i.e. ISA and IFG) on a per capita basis for the funding years 2008, 2009 and 2010 and estimated 2011, for the following schools: Kormilda College, Marrara Christian School, Tiwi College, Nyangatjatjara College, Yirara College, St Phillip's College and Good Shepherd Lutheran College in the Northern Territory. A detailed breakdown of the calculation method of these payments is also requested.

Answer

Funding under the Indigenous Supplementary Assistance and the Indigenous Funding Guarantee was not available in 2008. Both of these programs were introduced in 2009.

Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA)

ISA is provided in respect of all Indigenous students. ISA is provided at a per capita rate based on the level of schooling (primary or secondary) and whether the school is located in a remote/very remote area or a non-remote area.

The per capita ISA rates for 2009, 2010 and 2011 (estimated) are shown in Table 1. The initial 2009 rates were determined by legislation and are set out in the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*(p. 57-62). The final 2009 rates were determined by indexing these initial rates by 2009 Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC).

The 2010 rates were determined by indexing the final 2009 rates by the 2010 AGSRC. Similarly, the final 2011 rates will reflect changes in AGSRC for 2011. The AGSRC rates for a program year usually become available in October.

Seven schools have received ISA per capita rates in 2009 and 2010 and estimated rates are also provided for 2011.(See Table 2 for school breakdown).

Indigenous Funding Guarantee (IFG)

The IFG was introduced to ensure that schools and school systems received total recurrent funding at least comparable to that received in 2008. The IFG is a transition measure and is not intended to insulate schools from funding impacts associated with enrolment changes.

Only schools or systems that received IFG in 2009 are eligible to receive IFG in a subsequent program year. Once a school or system becomes ineligible for IFG funding, it

ceases to be eligible for the remainder of the funding period.

The methods used to calculate the IFG are:

'Total School' Approach: (for non-systemic schools)	Compares 2008 total recurrent funding levels with total recurrent funding levels in a subsequent program year, adjusting for enrolment changes if these fall below 2008 levels.
'Per Capita' Approach: (for non-systemic schools)	Compares 2008 per capita recurrent funding levels with per capita recurrent funding levels in a subsequent program year.
School System Approach: (for school systems)	Compares a system's 2008 total recurrent funding levels with total recurrent funding levels in a subsequent program year. Calculations are based on the aggregate entitlements of a system's member schools.

For non-systemic schools, the IFG is calculated on either a total school or per capita basis, depending on which arrangement delivers the greatest funding to an eligible school.

Table 1

Program Year	Primary		Secondary	
	Not remote (\$)	Remote/ Very remote (\$)	Not remote (\$)	Remote/ Very remote (\$)
2009	1668	4012	2381	4656
2010	1805	4342	2548	4983
Estimated 2011	1913	4603	2701	5281

Table 2

School	Program Year		
	2009 (\$)	2010 (\$)	Estimated 2011 (\$)
Kormilda College	2381 (secondary)	2548 (secondary)	2701 (secondary)
Marrara Christian School* (Northern Territory Christian Schools Association)	1668 (primary) 2381 (secondary)	1805 (primary) 2548 (secondary)	1913 (primary) 2701 (secondary)
Tiwi College	4012 (primary) 4656 (secondary)	4342 (primary) 4983 (secondary)	4603 (primary) 5281 (secondary)
Nyangatjatjara College	4656 (secondary)	4983 (secondary)	5281 (secondary)
Yirara College*	4656 (secondary)	4983 (secondary)	5281 (secondary)
St Phillip's College	4656 (secondary)	4983 (secondary)	5281 (secondary)
Good Shepherd Lutheran College* (South Australian Lutheran System)	1668 (primary) 2381 (secondary)	1805 (primary) 2548 (secondary)	1913 (primary) 2701 (secondary)

The schools marked with an asterisk (*) are systemic schools (Yirara College joined the South Australian Lutheran System from 1 January 2011). The funding amounts for systemic schools are the amounts that the schools attract to the school system and may be different from the amounts allocated to the schools by the system authority.