

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0613_12

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Grants and Awards program

"How will funding be distributed for the Grants and Awards programme? Will it be by per capita, by student, by state, by school, etc or by any other model? Will there be additional weighting/criteria in funding formulae for regional schools, those teaching in regional classrooms or those students who reside in regional areas? "

Answer

The Grants and Awards Program comprises four components:

- Australian Students Prize
- Asia Education Foundation
- Education Services Australia
- Grants-in-Aid

1. *Australian Students Prize*

The Australian Student Prize is annual and is awarded to 500 senior secondary students in recognition of academic excellence and achievement. Students are nominated by state and territory certification and assessment authorities. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations determines the number of prizes in each state and territory based on the number of full time enrolled Year 12 students in each state and territory from the previous year, using data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

2. *Asia Education Foundation*

The Asia Education Foundation receives core funding of approximately \$4.4 million over 2009-2012 to support the "*Supporting the Studies of Asia and Australia through the Asia Education Foundation*" initiative.

3. *Education Services Australia*

The Australian Government provides core funding for Education Services Australia (ESA) through the Grants and Awards Program. ESA is a ministerial company owned by Australian and New Zealand education ministers. It advances key education initiatives, programs and projects by providing efficient education services, in line with national education initiatives, to the schools, vocational education and training and higher education sectors.

4. *Grants-in-Aid*

The objective of Grants-in-Aid is to assist in maintaining the operations of key national educational research and representative organisations. In supporting these organisations, the Australian Government seeks to facilitate the flow of information about issues relating to school education into the community, and reciprocally from the community to governments, and facilitate long-term research into issues surrounding education and schooling.

Organisations to be supported are determined by the Australian Government Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth.