



Submission No 120

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

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Supplementary questions

1. What was the original timeframe put forward for the NALSAS program (some reports say 15 years from 1994, others seem to indicate a shorter duration)?

The NALSAS Strategy arose from a 1994 report prepared for the Council of Australian Governments entitled *Asian Languages and Australia's Economic Future*. While the timeframe outlined in the report was from 1995 till 2006, the Australian Government commitment was for an initial four year period (1995– 1998), then funding for one year in 1999, followed by a further three years (2000 -2002). States and territories were meant to match this funding.

2. Was the original program expected to become self-sustaining, and if so, within what sort of timeframe?

While the COAG report outlined targets to be reached by 2006, it did not indicate that the program was expected to become self-sustaining.

In 1999, when the Australian Government announced further funding for its share of the NALSAS Strategy for another three years (2000 -2002), the 1999 - 2000 Portfolio Budget Papers stated that the Australian Government commitment was for three years and "that the Commonwealth will have provided funding under the Strategy for seven years by which time it should have become self-sustaining."

3. Commonwealth funding to the School Languages Program as a whole, and the breakdown of those funds to the LOTE component for the duration of the NALSAS program, 1994-2002

Year	NALSAS \$ million	Community Languages Element \$ million	Priority Languages Element \$ million	LOTE \$ million
1994-1995	2.80	10.74	3.7 (approx)	
1995-1996	10.22	10.95	4.00	
1996-1997	10.06	11.20	4.08	
1997	30.44	12.06	4.49	
1998	21.56	12.61	4.70	
1999	44.44	13.30	4.95	
2000	29.96	14.28	5.32	
2001	30.01			20.57
2002	30.43			21.65
TOTAL	209.91	85.14	31.24	42.12

