

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.2- Assistance for individuals including those with special needs

#### **DEST Question No. E857\_07**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Literacy, Numeracy and Special Needs Program

Can you explain the basis for the allocation between the three sectors of schooling of the funds provided through the LNSN Program?

#### **Answer:**

*Literacy, Numeracy and Special Needs Program*

The Programme is comprised of three elements:

- Schools Grants;
- Non-Government Centres Support; and
- National Projects.

Schools Grants element – Allocations to state and territory government and non-government education authorities are based on a composite of allocative mechanisms. Details of the allocative mechanisms used to calculate sector allocations under this element are set out at Attachment A.

The Non-Government Centres Support element of the Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Programme targets children with disabilities who receive services provided at or in connection with non-government centres.

National Projects element – Funding is allocated on a project basis to support national research and initiatives aimed at improving the learning outcomes of educationally disadvantaged students.

Where projects operate on a national level with involvement of all states and territories; such as National Literacy and Numeracy Week and the Middle Years of Schooling Initiative, a base funding allocation is made to each state and territory with the remaining funding allocated on the basis of student population. These projects are undertaken collaboratively with all three sectors and distribution of funding to each sector within a state or territory is agreed on by the sectors.

**Schools Grants Element of the LNSLN Programme – Allocative Mechanisms**

Allocations for state and territory government and non-government education authorities are based on a composite of the following allocative mechanisms:

- Approximately 38% of funding is allocated using a mechanism of socio-economic disadvantage (SES). This mechanism uses the ABS Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage and ABS school enrolment data for the 500,000 most disadvantaged students which are sorted by state/territory and sector with sector percentages calculated by dividing the enrolments out of the total.
- Approximately 28% of funding is allocated using a Language Background Other than English (LBOTE) mechanism which uses ABS Census data of students with English as a Second Language characteristics with student numbers broken down by state/territory and sector.

These two mechanisms are being updated on a staggered basis over three years to include 2001 ABS Census data. Implementation commenced in 2005.

- Approximately 26% of funding is allocated for Special Education on the basis of government and non-government funding pools and a sector's share of government and non-government enrolments.
- Approximately 8% is for Strategic Assistance and is calculated on a per capita payment based on the number of students with disabilities reported in the schools census in the year immediately before the programme year.