

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

**Outcome**            2

**DEEWR Question No. EW929\_09**

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

**Question**

*Gifted Education funding arrangements*

When there is very strong research evidence to indicate that gifted children have particular learning needs and that gifted teaching programs can assist such children; why has the Federal Government recently withdrawn funding for such programs?

**Answer**

Under the new federal financial arrangements agreed by the Council of Australian Governments the Commonwealth has moved from a funding approach which prescribed inputs (through targeted programs) to one which focuses on improving outcomes.

Under the new federal financial arrangements the Australian Government has significantly increased funding for schools to improve outcomes for all students, including gifted and talented. The commitment to provide \$46.5 billion in schools funding over the four year period 2009-2012 for government and non-government schools has increased compared to \$34.1 billion in the previous schools agreement. States and territories will be responsible for determining how best to target these funds to improve outcomes for students.

All states and territories have specific programs for gifted and talented children and they will be able to apply the increased Commonwealth funding to these programs.