

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

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

**Outcome**            2

**DEEWR Question No. EW0979\_09**

Senator Ian Macdonald provided in writing.

**Question**

*Clarification of amendments to the Schools Assistance Bill 2008 – Indigenous funding*

Amendments made to the Schools Assistance Bill 2008 in late 2008 ensured a higher level of payments to Indigenous boarding students coming from remote areas.

What has actually happened to the funds paid to schools this Financial Year which have Indigenous boarding students coming from remote areas? What are the Government's plans for funding of such students in the coming Financial Years?

**Answer**

The amendments provide an additional level of assurance that schools would not lose funding under new arrangements for the payment of supplementary funding for Indigenous students from 2009. The amendments provide that the regulations may, among other things, specify an additional amount of assistance for Indigenous students from remote areas attending schools in non-remote areas to ensure this outcome.