

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

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

Outcome **3**

DEEWR Question No. EW 1016_09

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous funding for corrective services institutions

Why is federal funding for Indigenous affairs not been taken up by corrective services institutions?

Answer

Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria for funding, supplementary funding under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* (the IETA Act) has been available to states and territories to support the education and training of their Indigenous prisoners.

From 1 January 2009, supplementary Indigenous education funding previously available under the IETA Act for government schools and vocational education and training institutions is being made available under the National Education Agreement and the National Skills and Workforce Development Agreement respectively.

These new arrangements provide state and territory education and training authorities with greater flexibility in the use of that funding to implement effective solutions at a local level to address their areas of greatest need in pursuit of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) targets for closing the gap in educational outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. This includes the delivery of education and training services in corrective services institutions.