

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No. EW0915_11

Senator Mason asked on 24/02/2011, Hansard page 120.

Question

REGIONAL EIF AND BETTER UNIVERSITIES RENEWAL FUNDING

Ms Paul—Mr Hazlehurst was also saying that when you analyse the EIF projects you see quite a regional presence and similarly with Better Universities Renewal funding. I would have to qualify that, and I probably would need to take this on notice, but I have looked at this and the regional spread was quite impressive.

Answer

Through four competitive rounds of the Education Investment Fund (EIF), the Australian Government has committed \$1.318 billion on Higher Education and Vocational Education infrastructure projects, which are managed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Of this, \$275 million (20%) has been committed to institutions or campuses located in regional or remote areas of Australia where regional and remote is defined as per the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Remoteness Structure under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification.

Through the Better Universities Renewal Funding, \$500 million was allocated to the 41 Higher Education Providers in Tables A and B of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. Of this, \$99.982 million (19%) was allocated to institutions for regional and remote infrastructure projects (using the same ABS methodology).

In addition, the Government will provide \$500 million over five years to fund a Regional Priorities Round from the EIF. This will support regional higher education and vocational institutions to improve their infrastructure, and help improve the quality of training and education regional students receive. Higher educational and vocational institutions will apply in a competitive round, with all applications to be assessed by the EIF Advisory Board.