

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0989_13

Senator Scullion asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 65

Question

Cost of leasing arrangement from the Northern Land Council

[Mr Goodwin: No. (*actual construction at Garrthalala yet?*) We are still in the planning phase. There is no sod turned at this stage. That money (*the \$600,000*) has been expended on the lease application with the Northern Land Council, feasibility studies around the site itself, a technical feasibility study to ensure that the land on which we are proposing to build is suitable to build on and then some water, power and sewerage feasibility studies.] Senator SCULLION: How much did it cost for the leasing arrangements from the Northern Land Council? Mr Goodwin: I do not have that figure with me at the moment. Senator SCULLION: Perhaps you can take that on notice. Mr Goodwin: I am happy to take it on notice. Senator SCULLION: It does not sound like it is going to go in Garrthalala, so there is a fairly changed set of circumstances. Perhaps, just on notice, would you be able to provide the committee with a brief of all the steps you have to go through, what you have to secure now and if you able, talk about the site or the options? I would appreciate that on notice. Ms Paul: We can do that on notice. We can give you a personal briefing, if you wish. Senator SCULLION: I am sure the other members of the committee will be interested as well, so if you can just do that on notice and perhaps I can request a brief if that is not sufficient.

Answer

There are two current processes in play regarding leasing arrangements with the Northern Land Council. The first relates to the Wadeye Boarding Facility, Kardu Darrikardu Numida Hostel. That lease requires an annual rent payment of \$20 000 reviewed each year in line with the Darwin Consumer Price Index.

The second process operating through the Northern Land Council has had the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority grant a two year interim lease to enable construction of the Garrthalala facility to commence. The cost to date of the two lease applications for the Garrthalala facility is \$7 897.

Outstanding tasks to be finalised to enable construction to commence include: complete essential upgrades to community infrastructure, including water, power and sewerage; secure NT Government agreement to honour the former NT Government's in principle commitment to extend the Garrthalala school and build teacher housing; and conduct a tender process for construction of the boarding facility. A further tender will also be required to secure a company to take on operation of the facility, when completed.

The former Chief Minister of the NT wrote to Minister Garrett on 9 January 2013, indicating that his government would not be able to support the request for a financial contribution towards the upgrade of community infrastructure, expansion of the school or the construction of teacher housing. Minister Garrett is seeking to engage with the NT Minister for Education to establish what resources the NT is able to contribute.