

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E108_06

Senator Allison provided in writing.

Question:

In regard to the Capital Infrastructure Grants:

- How many schools (government and non-government) could receive grants for each year of the quadrennium assuming each school received the maximum grant amount?
- Have grants been made for 2005 yet? Where is this process up to? How many applications have been received so far?
- In your answer to my QON No. 378 (part 7) you only answered with respect to government schools, so can you please tell me whether non-government schools' SES scores and fee-structure will be taken into consideration when assessing applications for grants? If not, why not? As the Government believes that the SES funding model is "needs-based" and the criteria for assessing applications for grants include "the educational needs of students" should the SES score and fee structure of the school be considered?

Answer:

Investing in Our Schools Programme

Capital Infrastructure Grants are provided under the *Investing in Our Schools Programme*.

a. Government Schools

Programme Year	Allocated Funds ('000)	Maximum Number of Govt schools that could be funded to \$150,000 cap
2005	\$140,000	933
2006	\$186,667	1246
2007	\$186,667	1246
2008	\$186,666	1246

Non-Government Schools

Programme Year	Allocated Funds ('000)	Maximum Number of Non-Govt schools that could be funded for small projects*
2005	\$60,000	No cap therefore not applicable
2006	\$80,000	445
2007	\$80,000	444
2008	\$80,000	444

*These figures represent \$100 million that has been quarantined from 2006 onwards for small projects up to the value of \$75,000 per non-government school. Of the \$200 million allocation remaining, there is no maximum amount.

b. **Government Schools**

Approximately 4,580 applications were received for the first 2005 IOSP application round, of \$50,000 or less, that closed on 31 May 2005. Announcements of 4,934 successful grant applications, worth \$105 million in value, have been made in all States and Territories. The first payments have been made to ACT schools.

For the second 2005 application round, for grants of any amount up to \$150,000, approximately 3,618 applications have been received. Round two applications are currently being checked for compliance against the Programme Guidelines and accuracy, before being assessed.

Non-Government Schools

In 2005, 19 submissions from Block Grant Authorities (BGAs) have been received for IOSP funding to non-government schools. Of these, 293 projects have been recommended with 196 approved for funding to the value of \$22 million. The first payments for these are expected to be made in October 2005.

c. **Non-Government Schools**

Investing in Our Schools Programme 2005 applications from non government schools are assessed in the same way as applications for the Capital Grants Programme. The BGAs invite applications for funding, then assess and prioritise applications according to detailed criteria set by the Australian Government and outlined in the *Administrative Guidelines 2005-2008*. These criteria include the relative educational disadvantage of students at the applicant schools, the condition and suitability of existing facilities at the schools and the extent to which the schools provide for the upkeep of their facilities. BGAs examine whether there is a need for proposed facilities and whether the school is able to fund all or part of the project from its own resources. As eligible applications often exceed available funding, BGAs must prioritise applications according to the school's level of educational disadvantage (generally using a socio-economic status indicator). The BGAs provide recommendations to the Australian Government. The final decision for 2005 funding is made by the Minister or his delegate.