

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW742_09

Senator Adams provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Boarding Schools

Will there be enough demand to fill the positions at the colleges?

If yes, will there be enough positions to meet demand?

If no, how many more beds would be required to adequately meet demand?

Answer

The Budget initiative provides for three new secondary boarding facilities to be constructed and operated to cater for up to 152 Indigenous secondary school students from remote areas in the NT. One 40 bed boarding facility to be open in the 2009 school year with the remaining two (72 bed and 40 bed facilities) to be open in 2010. This initiative aims to improve access to quality schooling and increase education outcomes for Indigenous Secondary School Students.

Consultation on the location of the boarding facilities and their construction will be undertaken with Indigenous communities, the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and Northern Territory education providers. Similarly, management options for these facilities will be developed in consultation with relevant education providers, local communities and other interested parties.

The department will engage with communities, in conjunction with NT education providers, and in the context of Remote Learning Partnership Agreements (School–Community Partnerships) that are either in place, or being established, with communities. These agreements provide for collaborative ways of working to improve education and training outcomes for Indigenous students in the NT.