

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0141_11

Senator Williams provided in writing.

Question

Schools With A Low Socio-Economic Status

I refer to the funding which I understand is given over a 7 year cycle. Gilgai Public School, Red Range Public School and Mingoola Public School in the New England electorate all have low socio-economic status as recognised by the NSW Department of Education and Training. However all have missed out on funding, and in Gilgai's case, they are not included on the 7 year cycle for funding. Can the Department explain how this is possible?

Answer

COAG agreed to the methodology for selecting schools for the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership in 2008. This methodology was based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSED). The Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) was not developed at the time.

The three schools were not selected by New South Wales to participate in the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership, as their IRSED score was above the New South Wales cut-off. The schools also did not meet the New South Wales state-based criteria used to include additional disadvantaged schools under the National Partnership.

The New South Wales Priority Schools Program supports government schools serving the highest densities of low socio-economic status families in New South Wales. These programs provide resources to improve the literacy and numeracy achievements and engagement of students from low socio-economic status backgrounds. Gilgai Public School, Red Range Public School and Mingoola Public School are receiving funding under this program.

Gilgai Public School also received funding under the New South Wales Norta Norta program which provides targeted support to Aboriginal students to accelerate progress in the key areas of literacy and numeracy.