

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0142_11

Senator Williams provided in writing.

Question

COMMUNITY SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE

On the MySchool website, Gilgai's Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage is 905 which is second lowest in New England. However, more affluent schools with a higher ranking have received the funding. Is this not defeating the purpose of the program?

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.

GilgaiPublic School was not selected by New South Wales to participate in the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership, as its IRSED score was above the New South Wales cut-off. The school 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. GilgaiPublic School is receiving funding under this program.

GilgaiPublic 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.