

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0196\_12**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**More Support for Students with Disabilities Initiative**

Funding for students with disabilities There is \$200 million over three years in the budget to help teachers and schools support students with a disability and improve their learning outcome - how much of this funding will go to help students with disabilities in rural, remote and regional schools? The budget No 2 paper states the funding will be provided through a national partnership with states and territories. • How exactly will this work? • Will all of the funding go direct to the schools to help these students? • How will you ensure it won't be consumed by bureaucracy instead?

**Answer**

Funding under the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative will be provided by the Australian Government through a National Partnership with the government school sector and funding agreements with the non-government school sector. These agreements will outline the broad arrangements for delivery of the initiative.

At this stage it is not possible to identify funding for rural, remote and regional schools until the National Partnership is finalized and implementation plans for each education authority are agreed. The education authorities' implementation plans will be based on an environmental scan and needs analysis of students with disabilities and their schools.

The Australian Government will ensure value for money by negotiating the selected activities with education authorities and by analysing each implementation plan to ensure maximum benefits for the students with disabilities in each jurisdiction.