

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0206\_12**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA)**

ISCA sought a budget commitment for funding to ensure schools adversely affected by the changed funding arrangements have their 2008 per capita resource levels for indigenous students restored and indexed to preserve their value in real terms. This will ensure staffing and support services will be maintained.

- There doesn't appear to be any such commitment in the budget papers – is that correct or is it an oversight?
- If not, why not?
- Did the dept discuss this proposal with ISCA?
- How much would this commitment cost?

**Answer**

The Indigenous Funding Guarantee was introduced as a transition mechanism to help non-government schools adjust to the introduction of the Indigenous Supplementary Assistance, which has been available since 2009 to all non-government schools with Indigenous students.

The Indigenous Funding Guarantee is not subject to indexation. The purpose of the Indigenous Funding Guarantee is to cover the gap in funding for schools where the combined recurrent and Indigenous Supplementary Assistance in a program year is less than 2008 levels. It is calculated on either a total school or per capita basis, depending on which arrangement delivers the greatest funding to an eligible school.

There was no measure in the Budget as the conditions of the commitment have not changed. No formal costings have been undertaken in the Budget context.

The Department has discussed this proposal with the Independent Schools Council of Australia.