

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0371_13

Senator Nash asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 71

Question

Gonski - regional funding

Senator NASH: I understand that, but I am taking an opportunity now. If we could go along these lines and then if it turns out not to be the case that was my information from the letter that was received. Ms Paul: That is fine. The broader context is that the approach that the Gonski review is recommending is for a loading for small, remote schools. I forget how the geographical coverage goes but basically there would be a particular approach to a loading, which is probably a slightly different architecture to that. Why don't we spell that out in answer to the question on notice?

Answer

The Review of Funding for Schooling recommends that school size and location would attract a loading which would be available to schools in remote and very remote areas. This recognises the additional costs of operation in such locations and the comparatively poor educational outcomes for students at these schools. The Report suggests that the loading would range from a suggested maximum of 100 per cent of per student amounts for very small schools in very remote locations, to 10 per cent of per student amounts for medium sized schools in remote areas.

The Strategic Policy Working Group is considering the ranges of each loading as proposed by the Review Panel, and the increments at which the loading was proposed to increase. These settings need to accurately reflect the legitimate additional costs associated with operating small and remote schools. States and territories and non-government education authorities are currently considering the information they hold regarding costs in such schools to provide advice in relation to the adoption of the proposed settings.