

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 3

DEEWR Question No. EW824_09

Senator Milne provided in writing:

Question

Regional loading

Regarding regional loading under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines:

- a. What is the additional cost to Western Australian institutions of providing tertiary education to regional students?
- b. How has this figure been calculated?
- c. How often, and how, does the government review the adequacy of the regional loading process?
- d. When is the next review?

Answer

- a. The Department does not collect detailed data on the actual costs of higher education provision to regional students at individual universities. Western Australian higher education providers will be allocated \$738,086 in Regional Loading in 2009.
- b. The amount of Regional Loading is calculated in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines which are available on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.
- c. There have been no reviews of Regional Loading since its commencement in 2004.
- d. The Review of Australian Higher Education will provide advice on funding issues. The Review's terms of reference include the theme of 'supporting and widening access to higher education, including participation by students from a wide range of backgrounds'. The Review will provide its report by the end of 2008.