SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome **2**

DEEWR Question No. **EW549_10**

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

National curriculum, English as a second language.

Because of the national curriculum, the states and territories have to teach standard Australian Standard English. Why is it that Indigenous people are no longer being funded to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers in communities where the second language is English?

Answer

From 1 January 2009, this funding, along with other supplementary funding for Indigenous students, has been included under the National Education Agreement and *Schools Assistance Act 2008*. Education providers now have more resources and more flexibility to utilise Australian Government funding to meet the particular needs of their students, including Indigenous language speaking students.