

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0539_13

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Funding Model Details - Regional, rural and remote schools

1. Has the base-funding amount been set yet? What will it be for primary and secondary? 2. In the Prime Minister's address at the National Press Club the PM spoke of loadings for small schools and remote schools but did not mention regional and rural. Regional and rural are however also listed as areas eligible for needs loading on the Better Schools Website. Can the department please confirm what the categories for eligibility for needs loading will be? 3. How will regional, rural and remote schools be classified? Will the ASGC-RA classification system be used? What does 'rural' mean? 4. Does 'regional' for the purpose of new funding arrangements include outer and inner regional (as under the ASGC-RA classifications)? 5. Will Non-Government schools, which are currently eligible for remoteness loadings be guaranteed eligibility under the new criteria? 6. How will the level of loading for regional rural and small schools be determined? Is it to be a set percentage of the base funding? 7. Will the differing categories eligible for loadings (eg disability, remote, small schools, indigenous students) be set at different levels or the same?

Answer

Question 1

Base funding amounts for primary and secondary students would be dependent on the final make-up of the model. The model is currently under discussion with state and territory governments and non-government education authorities.

Questions 2, 3, 4 and 5

The Commonwealth is considering loadings for size as well as for location. It is anticipated a location loading could be constructed around the *Geographical Location Classification* prepared for the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (now the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood). Further information can be found at:

www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/_resources/geolocation_questions_coding_file.pdf

The model is currently under discussion with state and territory governments and non-government education authorities.

Questions 6 and 7

The level and method of calculation for regional, rural and small schools would be dependent on the final make-up of the model. The model is currently under discussion with state and territory governments and non-government education authorities.