

**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. EW0711_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 56

Question

Index to determine rural and remote and small schools

Senator MASON: Senator Nash will be very interested in these issues about loadings for rural and remote schools and small schools. What index will be used to determine very remote and remote schools under the new model? Is it that ABS geographical instrument again? Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, I should know it off the top of my head, but I may have to take it on notice. It is the formula that is currently used by the ministerial council. Ms Paul: We will have to take it notice. I am not sure which one it is. Senator MASON: What constitutes a small school? Ms Paul: Good question. Mr Cook: I am just trying to recall the number of students. Again, we will probably have to take it on notice. It is based on student population, although some of the changes that had been proposed are actually basing it also on a sliding scale in terms of a loading concentration. If the challenge is the difference between a small school and a medium school is one child, that would obviously have quite a perverse impact on a funding model. But if you have more of a sliding scale, where you look at the concentration loading—so there is a level of loading whether there are 50 kids or 51 kids—that addresses some of the issues around some of the complexities we had around what we would call a stepped approach to loadings, if that makes sense.

Answer

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 mechanism by which school size will be taken into account in the funding model is 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.