



**INQUIRY INTO
SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE BILL 2008
&
THE EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2008**

This submission is from the Catholic Education office in Darwin that has as part of its system a boarding school with an Indigenous boarding enrolment of 220.

We have looked at the proposed legislation, and in particular, the Section relating to Indigenous Supplementary Assistance – Sections 64 to 69.

If we are interpreting the legislation correctly and the rates provided, the boarding school in Darwin would receive substantially less funding.

Currently St John's College for 2008 receives funding for its Indigenous boarders through:

- Supplementary Recurrent Assistance
- ITAS RIS
- ITAS In-class Tuition
- ITAS Year 9 to Year 12
- Homework Centres
- Parent School Partnership Initiative

These programs generate funding for the school of **\$1,609,505**. This money is crucial in offering the programs to and supporting the students that come from very remote communities.

Using the funding rates outlined in the new proposal; if this school was funded at the very remote rate of \$4,400 (which is currently received for these students) their income would be reduced to approximately **\$1,042,800** which is a loss of **\$566,705**.

If the school was funded at the non-remote rate of \$2,500 for these students their income would be reduced to approximately **\$533,250** a loss of **\$1,076,255**.

We are aware that there is an Indigenous Funding Guarantee as part of the legislation to ensure that no school is worse off. However we feel that the new legislation from its beginning should properly resource schools that work to support Indigenous students in and from very remote communities. They should not have to rely on a guarantee that over a period of time may become difficult to administer.

Michael Avery
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Diocese of Darwin

31 October 2008