

**Department of Education, Employment and  
Workplace Relations**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED TO EACH STATE IN RESPECT OF 2009**

***Schools Assistance Act 2008***

pursuant to Section 172 of the  
*Schools Assistance Act 2008*

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## INTRODUCTION

The *Schools Assistance Act 2008* (the Act) provides the legislative basis for schools assistance programs administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in respect of the calendar years 2009 to 2012. This Act specifies the funds to be provided and the associated conditions set by the Australian Government for non-government schools.

The Act received Royal Assent on 11 December 2008 and provided initial allocations for 2009 through to 2012. Select Legislative Instrument 2009 No. 223, *Schools Assistance Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 1)*, supplemented funding for the 2009 program year through adjustments to recurrent, capital and targeted expenditure for primary and secondary non-government schools in line with the changes in the Average Government Schools Costs.

Section 172 of the Act requires the Minister to cause a report with respect to the financial assistance granted under the Act to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after 30 June. This report provides a detailed breakdown of expenditure in 2009 from funds appropriated by the Act and a brief description of how funding was allocated in line with the objectives for Australian Government programs for non government schools.

Funding is provided by the Australian Government as part of its contribution to the national effort for Australian schooling and the programs represent an integrated approach by the Government to the funding of primary and secondary education. Not all amounts in this report have been the subject of acquittal certificates at this time. Due to timing, some figures in this report may differ in later financial reports issued by the Department. Figures in this report may not add to totals due to rounding or truncating and the amounts shown exclude GST.

### **2009 Programs:**

The 2009 to 2012 funding quadrennium saw the introduction of two programs for Indigenous students:

- Indigenous Supplementary Assistance; and
- Indigenous Funding Guarantee.

A description of these Programs is provided in the respective sections of the report.

## **FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **RECURRENT GRANTS PROGRAM**

The objective of the Recurrent Grants Program is to help non-government schools with the recurrent costs of school education so they can offer students educational programs directed towards the achievement of the Australian Government's priorities for schooling.

Those priorities are aimed at ensuring all students are allowed to realise their full potential, so that they leave school with the knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to their post-school destinations, and they have a sound foundation for undertaking further education and training, participating successfully in the workforce, and contributing to and benefiting from Australian society.

Those priorities also include support for the principles of access, choice, equity and excellence in schooling by encouraging the provision of a strong, viable and diverse selection of government and non-government schools from which parents can choose.

Under agreements between the Australian Government and non-government school authorities, the authorities are required to meet educational accountability obligations by complying with the requirements set out in the Administrative Guidelines: *Commonwealth Programs for Non-Government Schools, 2009 to 2012*. The agreements require authorities to participate in an annual National Report on Schooling in Australia, including participating in sample studies and program evaluations as required by the Australian Government.

### **Socioeconomic Status (SES) Funding**

The SES arrangements involve the linking of student residential address data to the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) national Census data to obtain a measure of the capacity of the school community to support its school. The SES Data Collection of student addresses was undertaken by the Department in 2007. For the 2009 to 2012 funding quadrennium, all non-government schools are funded by the Australian Government under the SES funding arrangements and are:

- funded on their SES score and have had their funding entitlements assessed according to the SES of their school community
- funding maintained and have their funding entitlements preserved in real terms at their year 2000 (in the case of independent schools) or 2004 (in the case of Catholic systemic schools) funding levels, or
- funding guaranteed and have their 2008 per capita funding amounts frozen until the value of the funding associated with their 2009 to 2012 SES score is equal to or greater than their 2008 entitlements.

Table 1 sets out the SES funding levels for non-government per capita grants in 2009. Table 2 sets out the Year 2000 Non-Government per capita rates for 2009 for independent schools which are funding maintained.

Funding of \$5 827 052 677 was distributed to non-government schools on a per capita basis. Funds were made available under Sections 39, 41, 44, 48, 50, 54, 60 and 62 of the Act.

**Table 1: Non-government per capita rates for 2009 SES funding levels**

SES score	SES funding level (% of AGSRC)	Primary rate per student \$	Secondary rate per student \$
130 or greater	13.7	1149	1459
129	15.0	1257	1597
128	16.2	1358	1725
127	17.5	1467	1864
126	18.7	1568	1991
125	20.0	1676	2130
124	21.2	1777	2257
123	22.5	1886	2396
122	23.7	1987	2524
121	25.0	2095	2662
120	26.2	2196	2790
119	27.5	2305	2928
118	28.7	2406	3056
117	30.0	2514	3194
116	31.2	2615	3322
115	32.5	2724	3460
114	33.7	2825	3588
113	35.0	2933	3727
112	36.2	3034	3854
111	37.5	3143	3993
110	38.7	3244	4120
109	40.0	3352	4259
108	41.2	3453	4387
107	42.5	3562	4525
106	43.7	3663	4653
105	45.0	3771	4791
104	46.2	3872	4919
103	47.5	3981	5057
102	48.7	4082	5185
101	50.0	4190	5323
100	51.2	4291	5451
99	52.5	4400	5590
98	53.7	4501	5717
97	55.0	4609	5856
96	56.2	4710	5984
95	57.5	4819	6122
94	58.7	4920	6250
93	60.0	5028	6388
92	61.2	5129	6516
91	62.5	5238	6654
90	63.7	5339	6782
89	65.0	5447	6920
88	66.2	5548	7048
87	67.5	5657	7187
86	68.7	5758	7314
85 or less	70.0	5866	7453

(AGSRC: Average Government School Recurrent Costs)

**Table 2: Non-government per capita rates for 2009 maintained funding**

Primary Year 2000 funding Level (% of AGSRC)	Primary rate per student \$	Secondary Year 2000 funding Level (% of AGSRC)	Secondary rate per student \$
11.8	989	14.2	1512
14	1174	15.6	1661
15.7	1316	18.9	2013
19.6	1643	21.9	2332
19.7	1651	21.9	2332
23.9	2003	28.7	3056
29.0	2431	32.2	3429
32.0	2682	35.7	3801
34.7	2908	38.8	4131
35.0	2933	39.1	4163
38.7	3244	43.2	4600
43.8	3671	48.8	5196
47.5	3981	53.0	5643
51.2	4291	51.2	5451
51.6	4325	57.5	6122
56.0	4693	62.4	6644
56.2	4710	56.2	5984

(AGSRC: Average Government School Recurrent Costs)

## **Distance Education**

Recurrent Grants have been available for Distance Education (DE) students in eligible non-government schools. To be eligible for funding, DE students must reside in the state in which their school is located and not be home education students. A school must have state or territory recognition for the provision of DE at a level of education and location for which the school is already being funded. In states or territories where there is no specific registration or recognition of DE provision, state or territory recurrent funding of these students will be accepted as evidence of recognition by the appropriate authorities.

Once approved, the school or system is able to receive recurrent grants for its DE students at the base rate of 13.7% of the primary or secondary AGSRC amounts on a Full-Time-Equivalent basis. That is, the school authority will receive funding having regard to the nature of the course load those students are undertaking and the time they are actually receiving DE from the school.

In 2009 an amount of \$4 648 841 was distributed to non-government schools in respect of DE students. Funds were made available under Sections 39, 41, 44, 48, 50 and 54 of the Act.

## **Remoteness Loading**

Commencing in 2008, a remoteness loading for non-government schools was provided in recognition of the higher cost of delivering education services in regional and remote regions of Australia.

The remoteness loading is linked to the recurrent funding provided by the Australian Government to non-government schools. Eligibility for the loading is determined according to the level of remoteness of a non-government school or campus. Schools or campuses classified as 'Moderately Accessible', 'Remote' or 'Very Remote' receive an additional 5 per cent, 10 per cent or 20 per cent respectively of the funding entitlement associated with the school's Socioeconomic Status (SES) score.

For 2009, remoteness was classified using the Remoteness Structure for census year 2006, which is part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Australian Standard Geographical Classification, based on the Census Collection District (CD) in which the school or school campus is located. The loading is provided for each student in the relevant location.

In 2009 non-government schools and systems received \$28 387 051 in Remoteness Loading funding. Funds are made available under Sections 60 & 62 of the Act.

## **Indigenous Supplementary Assistance**

From 1 January 2009, Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA) for approved non-government system and school authorities replaced funding for the following Indigenous education program elements which were available under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000*:

- Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA);
- Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS);
- In-class tuition (ITAS ICT);
- Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 (ITAS 9 – 12);
- Remote Indigenous Students (ITAS RIS);
- English as a Second Language – Indigenous Language Speaking Students (ESL-ILSS); and
- Whole of School Intervention Strategy – Homework Centres (HWC).

The specific objective of ISA is to support approved non-government system and school authorities to accelerate educational outcomes for their Indigenous students beyond those which could reasonably be expected from their mainstream and own-source funding alone.

ISA funding is paid to approved non-government system or school authorities for each Indigenous primary or secondary student enrolled and is in addition to other Recurrent Funding.

In 2009 non-government schools and systems received \$56 205 302 in Indigenous Supplementary Assistance funding. Funds are made available under Sections 66 & 68 of the Act.

## **Indigenous Funding Guarantee**

As part of the consolidation of funding from the six Indigenous Education Programs under the Act, the Indigenous Funding Guarantee element ensures non-government schools and systems will receive total recurrent funding in 2009 to 2012 at least comparable to the total recurrent and Indigenous funding received for the 2008 program year.

In 2009 non-government schools and systems received \$5 223 160 in Indigenous Funding Guarantee. Funds are made available under Section 70 of the Act.

# CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

## Grants for Capital Expenditure

The Capital Grants Program (CGP) aims to provide and improve non-government school capital infrastructure, with particular emphasis on assisting schools serving the most educationally disadvantaged students. Capital Grants are supplementary to funds provided by non-government school authorities and school communities, which have primary responsibility for providing, maintaining and upgrading their non-government school facilities.

CGP funding is provided to non-government schools through Block Grant Authorities (BGAs)<sup>1</sup>. The BGAs recommend projects for Australian Government capital funding in accordance with the guidelines and objectives of the CGP and the priorities of their schools' systems.

The primary eligibility criteria relate to demonstrated financial and educational need. Applicant schools are assessed, initially by the BGAs, and ranked on these criteria in addition to other program requirements as contained in the relevant guidelines<sup>2</sup>. Projects recommended for funding by the BGAs are submitted to the Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth's delegate for approval.

In 2009, through the introduction of the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*, the government school component of the CGP was incorporated into the National Education Agreement. Consequently, capital grants for government schools are now managed by the state and territory governments.

In 2009 non-government schools and systems received \$131 942 733 in Capital funding. Funds are made available under Section 84 of the Act.

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<sup>1</sup> BGA details are at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Funding/CapitalGrantsProgram/Pages/BlockGrantAuthorityContactDetails.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> CGP guidance is at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/Pages/SchoolsAssistanceAct2008.aspx>

## **TARGETED GRANTS PROGRAMS**

### **Short Term Emergency Assistance**

The Australian Government provides funds for Short Term Emergency Assistance (STEA) to assist non-government schools in the event of an unexpected circumstance causing severe, temporary financial difficulty.

In 2009 the Australian Government set aside an amount of \$1 057 000 under the STEA Program for non-government schools. Following assessment of applications, an amount of \$370 000 has been distributed to eligible applicants. Funds were made available under Section 87 of the Act.

### **Education in Country Areas**

The Country Area Program (CAP) aims to improve the access of non-government school students in rural and geographically isolated areas to quality education through providing enhanced learning opportunities and additional educational activities. It also assists students in such areas to achieve outcomes and participation rates that match those of students in urban centres and less isolated areas.

Parents, administrators, teachers and members of the community are all assisted through the CAP.

CAP funding is paid directly to non-government education authorities in the states and the Northern Territory. Authorities have the flexibility to allocate funds according to their identified priorities based on their assessment of local need and provided they comply with CAP guidelines.

In 2009 Country Areas Program funding for government schools was rolled into the National Education Agreement. The states and territories are expected to provide sufficient funds for government schools in rural and regional areas in recognition of their specific needs.

In 2009, the Australian Government provided \$5 492 561 to non-government systems and schools. The Australian Government currently uses a mechanism based on demographic data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to allocate the funds. Funds were made available under Section 88 of the Act.

### **Languages Education**

In 2009 School Languages Program (SLP) funding was paid to Catholic Education Commissions and Associations of Independent Schools to support the learning of languages in schools and in after-hours ethnic/community language schools. The languages funded under the SLP include Asian, European, Australian Indigenous languages and Auslan.

In 2009, the Australian Government provided funding of \$12 795 000 to state and territory Catholic and Independent education sectors under the SLP. In line with the *National Statement and Plan for Languages Education in Australian Schools 2005-2008*, which is currently being revised, a proportion of legislated funding under the SLP has been set aside for national strategic projects, which in 2009 amounted to \$118 201, of this an amount of \$34 000 has been expended. The balance of the allocation has been largely committed through funding agreements entered into in 2009.

Funding was made available under Sections 89, 90 and 91 of the Act.

## **Teaching English to New Arrivals**

This program provides funding to state and territory non-government education authorities to assist with the cost of delivering intensive English language tuition for eligible newly-arrived migrant primary and secondary school students.

In 2009 funding for government schools was rolled into the National Education Agreement. The states and territories are expected to provide sufficient funds for government schools to assist newly arrived students requiring ESL tuition.

The program aims to improve the educational opportunities and outcomes of students who have recently arrived in Australia, whose first language is not English and whose proficiency in the English language is determined, at the local level, to require intensive assistance to enable them to participate fully in mainstream classroom activities.

In 2009, eligible students were expected to receive a minimum of six months intensive English language tuition either in intensive language centres/units or in schools. Where tuition was provided in schools, it was expected that students be provided with a minimum of ten hours of ESL assistance per week. The amount and duration of assistance provided for individual students is a matter for education authorities to determine.

ESL – New Arrival funding is allocated on the basis of actual enrolments of students who are eligible and require assistance. In 2009, the Australian Government provided \$8 427 568 to assist 1 053 non-government school students. Funding of \$5 942 898 was provided under this program to the Catholic sector and \$2 484 670 to the Independent sector. The per capita grant under the New Arrivals Program for 2009 was \$6 058 per student or \$12 116 per humanitarian student. Funding is provided under Section 93 of the Act.

## **Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs (LNSLN)**

LNSLN program funding for the non-government sector in the 2009 to 2012 funding period is provided under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*.

The LNSLN program assists non-government education authorities to improve the learning outcomes of educationally disadvantaged students, including students with disabilities, particularly in literacy and numeracy, by contributing funding for additional teaching and learning assistance.

Funding allocations for this element are provided to the non-government education authorities in the states and territories which are responsible for the detailed administration of this program in their systems and schools.

Education authorities have the flexibility to make decisions on which schools, including special schools, have the greatest need for additional assistance for educationally disadvantaged students and to determine appropriate funding amounts for those schools using the principles of equity, effectiveness and efficiency. Schools have the flexibility to use funding innovatively to meet the needs of their students.

Funding is targeted at school students from K (or equivalent) - Year 12 who are educationally disadvantaged in terms of their educational participation and learning outcomes, particularly literacy and numeracy outcomes. This may be associated with a range of factors such as disability, a language background other than English, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, low socio-economic background, geographical isolation and learning difficulties.

The LNSLN program consists of two components: the schools grants (recurrent) component and the students with disabilities (per capita) component. Funding for the recurrent component is determined using a composite allocative mechanism. Funding for the students with disability (per capita) component is determined by using a rate per eligible student. In 2009 the rate per student was \$894.

In 2009 the Australian Government provided total funding of \$183 599 154 to non-government education authorities for the LNSLN program.

A total of \$28 598 518 was provided under the students with disability (per capita) component. Funds were made available under Section 96 of the Act.

A total of \$155 000 636 was provided under the schools grants (recurrent) component. Funds were made available under Section 97 of the Act.

## **Establishment Grants**

Establishment grants were made available in respect of newly commencing non-government schools, excluding existing schools which are not in receipt of Australian Government general recurrent grants and new schools formed as a result of the amalgamation or separation of existing funded schools.

Establishment grants were abolished at the end of 2008, except for schools that had been established in 2008. For these schools, they continued to be eligible for the second year of establishment grants funding in 2009, at \$250 per student.

In 2009 non-government schools and systems received \$564 830 in establishment grants funding. Funds were made available under Section 100 of the Act.