



2019/20 Drought Relief – funding for non-government schools

Special Circumstances Funding

Fact Sheet

On 7 November 2019, the Minister for Education, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, announced that the Australian Government would provide an additional \$10 million in Special Circumstances Funding to drought affected schools.

Affected schools are providing support to students, their families and teachers. The cost of this assistance has adversely affected many schools' finances. Special Circumstances Funding will help maintain these schools' financial viability and assist them to continue to operate and provide education. This will mean students do not have to miss out on school as a result of hardship at home.

The funding round will target schools who are supporting students from drought affected areas, primarily Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, as identified by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development as part of their Drought Community Programme (<https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/drought-communities-programme>). While the department will prioritise applications from these states, it recognises that some schools and students outside these states may also be affected and as such consideration will be given to other applications on a case-by-case basis. Funding will be allocated to authorities and schools exhibiting the greatest relative need.

Applications must be made by an approved authority for a school (or schools) affected by the persisting drought, and must be signed by a representative of that approved authority. A timeline of key activities is provided on the following page.

Completed applications can be emailed to: Schools-DroughtRelief@education.gov.au or

Posted to:

Special Circumstances Funding Program Manager

School Assurance Branch (Loc C50MA9)

Department of Education

GPO Box 9880

CANBERRA ACT 2601

For further information on the funding round or for assistance in preparing an application, email Schools-DroughtRelief@education.gov.au or call 1800 677 027 (select option 6 – Special Circumstances Funding).

Timeline of key activities

7 November 2019	Announcement of 2019/20 Drought Relief Funding
12 November 2019	Application opens
16 December 2019	Application closes
Six weeks school holiday period	
January 2020	Assessment of applications
Mid - Late February 2020	Advise outcome to schools
Early 2020	Payment