

NO. 248

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS

Ms Purick to Minister for Education and Training

Please advise me on the following items.

1. How many schools are in categories of urban, rural and remote?
2. What is the fundamental difference in the classifications?
3. What services does each classification of school receive?
4. What are the boundaries for each of the classifications?
5. What is the classification for humpty doo, Bees Creek, Middle point Primary Schools and Taminmin College?

ANSWER

1. How many schools are in categories of urban, rural and remote?

There are a total of 153 schools comprising of 43 Outer Regional Australia (Provincial), 31 Remote Australia (Remote) and 79 Very Remote Australia (very remote).

2. What is the fundamental difference in the classifications?

The classifications are Australian Standard Geographical Classifications based on Accessibility/Remoteness indicators of Australia (ARIA) and are used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics.

The index is a number value between 0 to 15, this number represents the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest town or service centre in each of the five population size classes.

These are then used to divide up Australia into 6 geographical regions identified as follows: (remoteness Area Class ARIA plus Score Range in the Class)

*Major Cities of Australia – Collection Districts (CDs) with an average ARIA index value of 0.2

*Inner Regional Australia – CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4

*Outer Regional Australia – CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92.

*Remote Australia – CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53.

*Very Remote Australia – CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 10.53.

3. What services does each classification of school receive?

The services schools receive are dependent on the school and community needs, inclusive of the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) and remoteness of the Geographical classification.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Eligibility for participation in Low Socio-Economic Status Schools and Closing the Gap National Partnerships funding is based on geographical location.

There are 135 Northern Territory schools participating in the Smarter Schools National Partnership. Schools were selected to participate based on their eligibility for the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities, Closing the Gap and Literacy and Numeracy.

STAFFING

There are nine school types under the 2007 staffing formula, the majority being spread out over two or more geo-locations:

	Geo-location		
	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote
Senior Schools - Years 10 – 12 (2007 Formula)	X	X	
Middle Schools – Years 7 – 9 (2007 Formula)	X	X	
Primary Schools – Preschool – Year 6	X	X	X
Area Schools – Preschool to Year 9 (2007 Formula)		X	X
Comprehensive Schools – Years 7 to 12 (2007 Formula)	X	X	X
Community Schools – Preschool to Year 12 (2007 Formula)			X
Small Remote and Very Remote Schools – Preschool to Year 9 (2007 Formula)	X	X	X

Some of the historical Department of Education and Training programs are based around geographical boundaries and allocations remain relatively consistent within the boundaries, for example allocation of assistant teachers to all remote, predominantly Indigenous, Small Schools and Community Schools.

SCHOOL GRANTS

Schools receive Equity funding based on their ICSEA and National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) risks. This effectively provides a higher level of funding to remote communities as these communities generally have a lower ICSEA than Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine.

Schools in remote communities also receive additional relief teacher funding (depending on location and remote category) to assist with the additional travel costs associated with employing relief teachers in remote communities. All schools receive 6.5 days of relief teacher funding per full time equivalent teacher per annum. Remote schools may receive up to an additional 3 days per full time equivalent teacher per annum depending on remote category.

Essential Services and Property Management funding is based on some additional costs linked to remote areas.

4. What are the boundaries for each of the classification?

See explanation above, however broadly Darwin, Palmerston and Rural are classed as Provincial, schools from Batchelor to Katherine including the Daly Region and Alice Springs township are considered Remote and the rest are Very Remote.

5. What is the classification for Humpty Doo, Bees Creek, Middle Point Primary Schools and Taminmin College?

These schools are all classified as Provincial.