

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Education:

Homeland Schools

The recent Department report into homeland schools has shown that they have been chronically neglected and underfunded. This problem is both historic and current. In the 2018/19 period, Langarra Homeland school on Howard Island near Milingimbi received \$263,730 while Douglas Daly got \$355,276. Both schools have the same number of students.

1. What has been provided in the current budget to rectify that situation and bring equity between all schools?

Answer:

The operating costs for Homeland Learning Centres are managed by the principal of their local hub school. The hub school receives a funding allocation through the School Resourcing Model, which includes a variable component based on the Student Needs Based Funding Formula (SNBFF).

The SNBFF sees the local hub school receive funding for all students enrolled at the school, including those attending Homeland Learning Centres, with additional loadings based on student needs. Loadings can be provided for year level, socio-economic status, Aboriginal status and concentration, remoteness of the school, English as an Additional Language / Dialect, distance education and school size.

As such, funding between sites is not directly comparable and is generated by the profile of the current student cohort.

Targeted funding is also provided to six hub schools to allow for the additional travel costs associated with operating their Homeland Learning Centre. The other two hub schools are provided with departmentally-funded vehicles to service their Homeland Learning Centres.

The School Resourcing Model overview fact sheet is provided at Attachment A.

The Homelands review considers the implications of the school resourcing model on the funding for Homeland Learning Centres. The recommendations of the review are under consideration by the department and will form a submission to Government in the first half of 2021.