LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Education:

Global School Funding – EY Report

- 1. How many schools have now received Building Better Schools (BBS) funding in all funding rounds? Please detail names of schools and what works have been / will be undertaken.
- 2. What recommendations of the September 2017 Ernst and Young (EY) report into Global School Funding have you accepted and what haven't you accepted?
- 3. What support is the Department providing schools who are not capable of autonomously managing their funds? What staffing resources are allocated to support these schools? Please break down by location.
- 4. Have you replaced the "Exceptional Circumstances Policy' as recommended?
- 5. What is the Department doing to develop consistency in support structures for schools, especially for regional and remote schools?
- 6. What is the Department doing to consolidate financial reporting for schools and improve financial reporting practices to more readily measure surpluses and deficits, (i.e. separated from grant funding)?
- 7. Have you developed policies on the maximum levels of cash reserves held by schools?
- 8. Will you centralise funding of personal leave to provide more certainty to school budgets?
- 9. Are students enrolled in both Government Schools and VET programs being allocated funding twice? If yes on how many occasions has this occurred?
- 10. How many students of the Intensive English Unit have successfully transitioned to mainstream classes?

- 11. The EY report states that "NT Aboriginal students' NAPLAN results are poorer as their remoteness increases, and school attendance rates are poorer for Aboriginal students in remote areas compared to less remote areas". In order to address this disparity will you, as recommended:
 - a. Adjust the Aboriginal student weighting from .3 to .225?
 - b. Increase the Aboriginal student concentration weighting from .05 to .15?
 - c. Reduce the Aboriginal student concentration floor from 40% to 35% to include more schools?
 - d. Make any other adjustments to the aboriginal student weighting and aboriginal student concentration weighting?
- 12. Will you consolidate funding for special needs students?

ANSWERS

- 103 government and non-government schools received funding through Rounds
 1 and 2 of Building Better Schools funding (Attachment A refers).
- 2. As published on the Department of Education's <u>website</u>, all of the 20 recommendations from the *Review of the Global School Budget Funding Model* (the review) have been accepted in full or in principle, subject to further investigation and analysis.
- 3. Staffing resources allocated to support schools in managing their funds, by location as at August 2018, are as follows:
 - Darwin region 14
 - Palmerston and Rural and Arnhem region 12
 - Katherine region 12
 - Barkly region 3
 - Alice Springs region 10

These staffing resources are a part of the department's School Financial Improvement and Support team which has recently been refocused to provide differentiated support to schools through an improved service delivery model. The team includes

- The Department of Education's bureau service which performs financial and administrative functions unable to be facilitated by school staff. This service has been provided in acknowledgement of the Northern Territory (NT)'s context, with many small schools with teaching principals having limited capacity to manage their budget.
- Manager School Financial Support positions recently established to enable greater leadership and support to regional staff supporting schools.

- School Financial Improvement Managers (formerly Regional Business Support Consultants), who, with the introduction of the Manager School Financial Support positions will have greater capacity to focus on providing capability development and differentiated support to business managers, principals and school leaders.
- Relief business managers skilled to support schools and enable other business managers to take recreation leave.
- Centrally located staff in Darwin who provide support, services and capability development to all regions.

A new Early School Support Team (ESST), with specific expertise and support capabilities in strategic workforce planning and budget management. The ESST will be the main referral point to coordinate additional support for schools that require budget management assistance.

4. The Exceptional Circumstances policy has been replaced and schools experiencing financial hardship can now contact their School Financial Improvement Managers to assist them to manage school finances or progress applications for financial support.

The new School Resourcing Committee (SRC) will be in operation shortly and will assess applications for financial support.

An interim SRC assessed the final round of Exceptional Circumstances for schools who experienced financial hardship in 2017.

5. The department's service delivery model for schools is being reviewed and expanded in line with a key focus area of the Education NT Strategy (2018-22) for differentiated support for schools. This has included an organisational realignment which is briefly described in response to question 3 regarding support for smaller schools unable to autonomously manage their budgets.

The organisational realignment process for Finance more broadly has included:

- line management responsibility for all regional financial support has been allocated to the department's central Financial Services team to ensure consistency in services and advice, staff training and policy development across regions
- the establishment of four Manager School Financial Support positions to enable greater leadership and support to regional staff supporting schools
- the establishment of a new Early School Support Team to monitor school finances and intervene early to support schools to manage their funds.

Consistency is also being improved through new and updated operational policies and guidelines to provide clarity around the process and roles and responsibilities for managing and governing school resources across small, regional, urban and remote schools. Additional information about the progress of school financial policy development is provided in the response to question 7.

Face-to-face and online staff training programs will be delivered across regions by the department's Financial Services and will include information about the School Resourcing Model.

6. The department is currently reviewing financial reports, with input from key stakeholders (including, school principals, business managers and Finance staff) to identify and prioritise reports for development. New or modified reports will be released progressively from Semester 2, 2018. This exercise includes consideration of how grant funding can be reported when measuring surpluses and deficits.

In addition, the new Early School Support team will also monitor finances centrally to more readily and proactively engage with schools using established metrics.

The project to review enterprise financial systems will also include consideration of improved reporting.

- 7. The cash reserves policy is currently under development.
- 8. The EY report recommendation to centralise funding of personal leave was accepted in principle, subject to further investigation. The department is working towards a 2019 target subject to system capabilities being investigated to see if they match expectations for potential changes and that this process does not have any unintended impacts for schools.

The department, along with an external consultant and the Department of Corporate and Information Services, is currently exploring Northern Territory Government system capability and limitations to be able to centralise funding of personal leave.

9. The EY report recommends that the department should undertake a more detailed review of program provision or resource placement which may result in unintended inequities. The department accepted this recommendation and is prioritising programs for review in 2018.

The department is currently reviewing factors contributing to the allocation of funding for secondary students that are enrolled in both government schools and Vocational Education Training (VET) programs to determine whether funding is equitable and appropriate to enable delivery. This will include diverse needs of students who require multiple educational pathways, varying in delivery mode and resources. Funding is provided through VET delivered in schools, Employment Pathways and the school resourcing model for delivery and additional support for this variety of pathways.

As the department does not currently hold data relating to the portion of a student's full time equivalent study load related to VET, Education Pathways or the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET), refining systems to capture this information is part of the review.

10. The length of access to Intensive English Units is stated in the <u>published</u> <u>English as a Second Language guidelines</u>: "Newly arrived students are eligible to attend Intensive English classes for a year. An additional semester of study in an Intensive English class is at the school's discretion"

The EY report found that while Intensive English Units (IEU) may be an effective means for preparing students with ESL needs to transition to mainstream classes, there is not sufficient data available to determine the efficacy of the programs.

The EY report recommended that the department review the access and outcomes of the IEU program and develop a performance measure to monitor the number of students attending IEUs and transitioning to mainstream classes, to monitor the efficacy of IEU programs. The department accepted that a review of access to and outcomes of the IEU program will be conducted in 2018. In Semester 2, 2018, an external expert will undertake this review.

Analysis of transition rates will be completed as part of the review.

11. The EY report recommended that the department considers adjusting the Aboriginal student weighting to reflect the different needs of Aboriginal students between remote and urban schools. This recommendation was accepted in principle, subject to further consideration of the impact of changes to the weightings as recommended on all schools.

To adjust Aboriginal student weightings an investigation into the costs of education delivery in remote locations is needed (review findings 10b and 10c refer). A review on the different needs of remote Aboriginal students in the resourcing model has commenced. This will be completed in two phases. The first phase is to develop policy for what and how education services can be delivered to meet Aboriginal student need in remote locations. The second phase, once policy options have been developed, is to complete financial modelling to determine the costs of the different services and levels of need.

It is anticipated that the review will inform 2020 school funding.

12. The students with additional needs project is based on three recommendations of the EY report (recommendations 12 a - c refer) and the project is being delivered in phases.

A Students with Additional Needs (SwAN) framework is currently under development. Consultation completed in Semester 1, 2018 is informing development of the framework and initial financial modelling. Options identified as a result of the financial modelling will determine future funding weightings for phased implementation from 2019.

ATTACHMENT A

STATUS OF BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS COMMITMENT AS AT 25 JULY 2018

TABLE 1: GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Bradshaw Primary School	Alice Springs	New playground equipment	Design / Documentation	
Centralian Senior College	Alice Springs	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: P1. Fencing of college perimeter P2. Shade and seating near bus stop P3. Sealing of student carpark	P1. Planning P2. Planning P3. Planning	
Haasts Bluff School	Alice Springs	Upgrade main block	Works in progress	
Imanpa School	Alice Springs	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: Early child playground, fence and shade	Planning	
Laramba School	Alice Springs	P1. Upgrade canteen P2. Upgrade boundary fence	P1. Works in progress P2. Design	
Larapinta Primary School	Alice Springs	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: Front office upgrade	Planning	
Nyirripi School	Alice Springs	Kitchen / teaching facility for nutrition program	Planning	
Papunya School	Alice Springs	Shade structure and Associated works	Works in progress	
Ross Park Primary School	Alice Springs	Outdoor play area, playground and Shade	Works in progress	
Sadadeen Primary School	Alice Springs	P1. Senior and junior playground P2. Shade over playground	P1. Complete P2. Complete	P1. 30-Mar-18 P2. 30-May-18

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Walungurru School	Alice Springs	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: P1. Acoustic upgrades x 4 classroom and pre-school disabled ramp P2. Playground - social and wilderness P3. Refreshing - painting to internal areas	P1. Planning P2. Planning P3. Planning	
Watiyawanu School	Alice Springs	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: P1. New playground P2. Solar panels and upgrade junior classroom P3. Upgrade kitchen and paint all surfaces	P1. Planning P2. Planning P3. Planning	
Yuendumu School	Alice Springs	P1. Bus shed (was going to be school council funded) P2. Replace boundary fence (Scope to be confirmed)	P1. Complete P2. Planning	P1. 28-Aug-17 P2.
Yulara School	Alice Springs	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: P1. Internal and external paint P2. Replace boundary fence P3. Playground equipment	P1. Planning P2. Planning P3. Planning	
Angurugu School	Arnhem	P1. Classroom Upgrades- replace floor finishes P2. New playground equipment	P1. Complete P2. Works in progress	P1. 29-Jan-18 P2.
Gapuwiyak School	Arnhem	New facility for Families as First Teachers (FaFT) and cooking	Planning	
Maningrida School	Arnhem	Upgrade to preschool ablution and VET Learning	Complete	08-Jun-18
Milingimbi School	Arnhem	New boat shed	Works in progress	
Nhulunbuy High School	Arnhem	Upgrade ablutions	Planning	
Nhulunbuy Primary School	Arnhem	Refurbish administration area	Planning	
Ramingining School	Arnhem	P1. Purchase leased demountables P2. Acoustic improvements to classrooms	P1. Complete P2. Complete	P1. 10-Nov-16 P2. 30-Apr-18
Shepherdson College	Arnhem	Playground, senor lights and ramps to classrooms	Planning	
Yirrkala School	Arnhem	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: P1. Playground P2. Performing art space	P1. Planning P2. Planning	

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Alekarenge School	Barkly	Upgrade preschool outdoor play area and outdoor dining area	Planning	
Arlparra School	Barkly	Upgrade kitchen and new cold store room	Works in progress	
Epenarra School	Barkly	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: P1. Replace boundary fence P2. Acoustic upgrade to library, home economics and woodwork rooms P3. Fix shade structure over playground	P1. Planning P2. Planning P3. Planning	
Rockhampton Downs School	Barkly	New transportable classroom, shade structures and playground	Complete	30-Jun-18
Tennant Creek Primary School	Barkly	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: Outdoor playground and shade and outdoor kitchen	Planning	
Willowra School	Barkly	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: School upgrades	Design / Documentation	
Alawa Primary School	Darwin	P1. Upgrade Local Area Network P2. Refurbish Staff ablutions P3. Install ablution into library	P1. Complete P2. Complete P3. Complete	P1. 17-Oct-17 P2. 23-Nov-17 P3. 30-Jan-18
Anula Primary School	Darwin	Combined with Capital Works project to upgrade ablution blocks	Works in progress	
Darwin High School	Darwin	P1. Design consultancy to develop concept plans and estimate for refurbishment of Block A and B P2. Dependant on outcome of concept plans	P1. Works in progress P2. TBC	
Darwin Middle School	Darwin	Covered shelter over bus zone with walkways to classrooms for safety.	Complete	30-May-18
Dripstone Middle School	Darwin	P1. Upgrade Local Area Network P2. Student shade structures P3. Upgrade canteen Enclosed area P4. Furniture, Fittings and Equipment	P1. Complete P2. Complete P3. Complete P4. Complete	P1. 1-Oct-17 P2. 25-Sept-17 P3. 24-Jan-18 P4. 6-July-18
Jingili Primary School	Darwin	P1. Irrigation system P2. New playground equipment	P1. Complete P2. Planning	P1. 20-Jul-18
Karama Primary School	Darwin	Refurbish Block 3 to open plan learning areas	Design / Documentation	

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Larrakeyah Primary School	Darwin	P1. Playground equipment and shade P2 a&b. Early Childhood Playground and shade P3. Furniture	P1. Complete P2a. Complete P2b. Complete P3. Complete	P1. 28-Oct-17 P2a. 27-Feb-18 P2b. 23-May-18 P3. 18-May-18
Leanyer Primary School	Darwin	Combined with Capital Works project to upgrade preschool	Complete	01-Aug-17
Ludmilla Primary School	Darwin	Combined with Capital Works project to upgrade front of school	Works in progress	
Malak Primary School	Darwin	Upgrade Block 120 classrooms (Building 06)	Design / Documentation	
Manunda Tce Primary School	Darwin	P1. Part funding to Enclose open aired area in library to create parents resource room (in conjunction with other MNW funding) P2. Playground, shade and softfall	P1. Complete P2. Works in progress	P1. 20-Jun-18
Millner Primary School	Darwin	Upgrade student ablutions	Complete	12-Apr-18
Moil Primary School	Darwin	Internal paint of classrooms and purchase interactive media for classrooms	Tender stage	
Nakara Primary School	Darwin	Upgrade outdoor play areas	Design / Documentation	
Nemarluk School (Special)	Darwin	Playground equipment	Complete	22-Jun-18
Nightcliff Middle School	Darwin	Bike shed and student garden shed	Works in progress	
Nightcliff Primary School	Darwin	P1. Early Childhood play space upgrade P2. Upgrade outdoor learning areas	P1. Complete P2. Tender	P1. 20-Apr-18 P2.
Sanderson Middle School	Darwin	P1. Upgrade three science laboratories P2. Furniture P3. Report on lights on tennis court	P1. Complete P2. Complete P3. Complete	P1. 20-Feb-18 P2. 26-Jun-18 P3. 31-May-18
Wagaman Primary School	Darwin	Covered walkway/outdoor learning areas to Block C and D	Design / Documentation	
Wanguri Primary School	Darwin	Upgrade outdoor play areas	Design / Documentation	

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Wulagi Primary School	Darwin	Upgrade outdoor learning area (courtyard)	Tender stage	
Amanbidji School	Katherine	New access from preschool to main building and to ablutions	Complete	19-Jun-18
Barunga School	Katherine	P1. New boundary fence P2. Shade structure (subject to funding)	P1. Planning P2. Subject to funding	
Bulla Camp School	Katherine	P1. New boundary fence P2. Shade structure (subject to funding)	P1. Planning P2. Subject to funding	
Casuarina Street School	Katherine	P1. Playground equipment (combined with other MNW funding) P2. Early Years playground	P1. Complete P2. Tender	P1. 28-Feb-18 P2.
Jilkminggan School	Katherine	Refurbish resource room, new playground for upper primary and furniture.	Complete	31-May-18
Katherine High School	Katherine	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: Refresh science lab and library	Planning	
Katherine South Primary School	Katherine	Upgrade car park and kiss and go including covered walkways	Complete	28-Jun-18
Kintore St. School	Katherine	Playground softfall, swipe card system and associated works	Works in progress	
Lajamanu School	Katherine	Combined with Capital Works project to upgrade ablutions	Works in progress	
MacFarlane Primary School	Katherine	P1. Basketball shade P2. ablution upgrade (subject to funding)	P1. Planning P2. Subject to funding	
Ngukurr School	Katherine	P1. Acoustic upgrade and new flooring (in conjunction with other MNW funding) P2. Active Learning Play area	P1. Complete P2. Design	P1. 25-Jan-18 P2.
Urapunga School	Katherine	P1. Solid cover over basketball half court, resurface and new hoops P2. Kitchen modifications	P1. Complete P2. Works in progress	P1. Complete P2.
Adelaide River School	Palmerston and Rural	P1. Playground upgrade P2. Early years classroom upgrade (subject to funding)	P1. Planning P2. Subject to funding	
Bakewell Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	Covered walkway and drop off	Complete	02-Aug-17
Batchelor Area School	Palmerston and Rural	Defining scope Works in progress - Identified priorities: Refresh Dormitory Block 03 or administration building upgrade	Design / Documentation	

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Bees Creek Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	Refurbish classroom block to open plan learning areas.	Design / Documentation	
Douglas Daly School	Palmerston and Rural	Replace demountable classroom and ablution block	Design / Documentation	
Driver Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	P1 - New ablutions block P2 - Upgrade store room to multipurpose area	P1. Complete P2. Complete	P1. 18-May-18 P2. 18-May-18
Dundee Beach School	Palmerston and Rural	Transportable multi-purpose area	Design / Documentation	
Girraween Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	Combined with Capital Works project to construct new general learning area	Works in progress	
Gray Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	P1. Refurbish irrigation P2. Refurbish ablutions	P1. Complete P2. Complete	P1. 1-Aug-17 P2. 24-Apr-18
Gunbalanya School	Palmerston and Rural	Interior and exterior painting	Design / Documentation	
Howard Springs Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	P1. Include part funding to MNW project to Refresh front entrance (in conjunction with other MNW funding) P2. Create water play area in preschool	P1. Complete P2. Works in progress	P1. 29-Sept-17
Jabiru Area School	Palmerston and Rural	Includes part BBS - Outdoor learning area and play space (in conjunction with other MNW funding)	Works in progress	
Milikapiti School	Palmerston and Rural	Solid shade over playground and associated works	Planning	
Nganambala School	Palmerston and Rural	Basketball half court with solid shade structure	Works in progress	
Palmerston College (10- 12)	Palmerston and Rural	10-12 Campus - Refurbish first floor Block D (in conjunction with other MNW funding)	Complete	25-Jun-18
Palmerston College (7-9)	Palmerston and Rural	7-9 Campus - P1. Covered shelter and bus zone extension for safety, playground and shade sail P2. Walkways and bubbler	P1. Complete P2. Works in progress	P1. 31-Mar-18
Pularumpi School	Palmerston and Rural	New preschool and FaFT Area (Block C)	Works in progress	
Taminmin College	Palmerston and Rural	P1. Transferred to Capital Works Program - STEAM project (\$200k) P2. Chook pen and greenhouse P3. Refurbish ablutions in Block 3 and 7 (in conjunction with other MNW funding)	P1. Complete P2. Complete P3. Complete	P1. Jan-18 P2. 31-Jan-17 P3. 25-Aug-17

School	Region	Project Description*	Status*	Projected completed Date**
Tipperary Station School	Palmerston and Rural	P1. Playground equipment and shade (was going to be school council funded) P2. To be advised	P1. Complete P2. Works in progress	P1. 28-May-18 P2. Round 3 or 4
Woodroffe Primary School	Palmerston and Rural	Shade over play area and sand pits, basketball court, Playground and shade	Design / Documentation	
Woolianna School	Palmerston and Rural	Replace demountable classroom and install ramp	Design / Documentation	

* It should be noted that some schools have utilised their grant to undertake numerous projects. Each project is represented in these columns by P1., P2. etc. ** Where the date is in the future and the project status is complete, completion occurred

ahead of schedule.

Table 2: Non-Government Schools

School	Region	Project Description	Status	Completed Date
Nhulunbuy Christian College	Arnhem	To be confirmed.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
O'Loughlin Catholic College	Darwin	Construction of undercover multi-purpose sports area	In progress	
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Darwin	Extension to early childhood classrooms. Plant room for air-conditioners.	Complete	June 2018
Tiwi College	Darwin	Construction of teacher accommodation to facilitate increased enrolments.	Complete	January 2018
Haileybury Rendall School	Darwin	IT upgrades and asbestos removal.	In progress	
St John's College	Darwin	Upgrades to classrooms, science labs and multipurpose rooms.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Darwin	Upgrades to Early Learning Centre.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement	
Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School	Darwin	Installation of outdoor sound system, renovations to canteen and basketball court.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
Marrara Christian College	Darwin	To be confirmed.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
Milkwood Steiner School	Darwin	To be confirmed.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	

School	Region	Project Description	Status	Completed Date
Nyangatjatjara College	Alice Springs	Solar array installation	Complete	April 2018
Yirara College	Alice Springs	Upgrades to IT, Home Economics area, boarding and outdoor areas.	In progress	
Living Waters Lutheran School	Alice Springs	Upgrades to play and sports facilities.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College	Alice Springs	Upgrades to play and sports facilities.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
St Philip's College	Alice Springs	Fire safety water main upgrade.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
Araluen Christian College	Alice Springs	To be confirmed.	Planning for 2018-19 commencement.	
St Joseph's Catholic College	Katherine	Upgrade primary school classrooms.	In progress	
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	Palmerston and rural	Upgrade driveway to ensure safe entry and exit to school.	In progress	
Palmerston Christian School	Palmerston and rural	Extension to early learning centre and transition classroom. Extend walkways to middle school.	In progress	