

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Elferink to Minister for Education and Training

NTCE Certificate in Remote Communities

1. What has been the average cost (including infrastructure spending) for each NTCE certificate awarded in remote communities since 2001.
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ANSWER

Prior to the election of the Labor Government in 2001, remote students undertaking senior year education were not able to undertake Northern Territory Certificate of Education courses of study in their communities.

Policy changes were put in place that enabled three Kalkaringi students in 2003 to become the first remote students in the Northern Territory to complete their NTCE whilst studying in their home community.

Since 2003, 152 certificates have been awarded to students in remote communities. Six remote schools have a South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Board number, which permits them to offer NTCE subjects.

The most recent Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) National Report on Schooling (2008) identifies that per capita expenditure in government schools has steadily increased over the past decade.

In 2007-08, this expenditure reached \$11 557 for primary students and \$14 306 for secondary students. Over the 12 years of schooling, and based on the 2008 consumer price index, the cost of educating a student is \$152 429. These figures from MCEETYA provide a guide to the per capita cost of education. However, multiple factors impact education service delivery costs to schools in remote locations, not the least of which is distance.

While it is expected that service delivery per student will be higher in remote schools than per capita expenditure in urban schools because of distance from the main service centres and additional staffing costs, it is not possible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the average cost per NTCE in remote schools beyond the assessment provided by MCEETYA.