



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 6

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Jo Hersey MLA:

Changes to school funding

- 1. Please advise if the targeted funding for bilingual schools will cease in 2025?**

In 2025, additional funding has been provided to the existing nine schools currently providing bilingual programs.

- 2. From 2025, how will the current schools that are listed as Bilingual schools pay for the extra positions and support required to run a bilingual program?**

From 2025 schools will be funded on enrolment, which provides additional resources to schools to deliver educational programs, including bilingual education.

- 3. Please provide the 2024 (or the most recent year that the data is available) funding amount that each bilingual school was allocated through the bilingual targeted funding program?**

- The nine existing schools delivering bilingual education and their funding is summarised in the below table:

School	Region	2024 Final Funding
Willowra School ¹	Central	\$2,348,198
Areyonga School ¹	Central	\$1,253,076
Yuendumu School ¹	Central	\$4,459,812
Yirrkala School	East Arnhem	\$2,532,760
Numbulwar School	Big Rivers	\$2,016,952
Maningrida College	Top End	\$9,137,527
Shepherdson College	East Arnhem	\$6,538,190
Lajamanu School	Big Rivers	\$2,178,614
Milingimbi School	East Arnhem	\$3,085,208

4. Please advise how many targeted funding programs currently exist, and could you advise which of these programs will continue to receive targeted funding in 2025 and beyond?

There are 18 targeted program types and 74 program instances across 54 schools in 2025. The remaining targeted programs will be reviewed as part of 2026 funding.

5. What is the budget of each targeted programs in 2024 (or the most recent year that the data is available)?

Program name	2025 Annual Resourcing Allocation
Program - Boarding	\$3,829,824
Program - Child and Family Centre	\$2,576,949
Program - Communicate Autism (CommAut)	\$2,041,242
Program - Dual Campus	\$534,146
Program - Homeland Learning Travel	\$798,889
Program - Hospital School Program	\$240,623
Program - Intensive English Unit	\$3,115,282
Program - Kids In Town Engaged in School	\$911,510
Program - NT Music School	\$4,803,388
Program - Outdoor Education Unit	\$478,586
Program - Special Annexes	\$20,358,024
Program - Special Schools	\$36,236,027
Program - Taminmin Farm	\$927,076
Program – Youth Justice Centre Schooling	\$4,828,049
Program - Top End School of Flexible Learning	\$3,312,157
Program - Transition Funding	\$1,405,804
Program - Youth Inpatient Program	\$163,740
Program - Mimik-ga Centre	\$795,442
Program – Bilingual education	\$2,122,763
Total	\$89,479,521

6. Please advise if school vehicles will no longer be centrally funded, and in 2025 must be funded from the school's budget?

Yes, excluding principal executive vehicles. Centrally held funds for these vehicles were re-distributed to schools through the School Resourcing Model.

7. Please advise in 2024 (or the most recent year that the data is available), what was spent by the Department of Education on:
- (a) vehicles in remote indigenous schools?
(b) vehicles for each school in the Mulka electorate?

(a) Due to the administrative burden required to provide this level of detail and the large amount of data, we have provided the below information summarised by region.

12-month expenditure – October 2023 to October 2024

Department of Education		2024 Vehicle costs Total
Barkly		\$546,689
Big Rivers		\$812,381
Central		\$676,777
Darwin		\$95,844
East Arnhem		\$648,947
Top End		\$573,483
Total		\$3,354,121

(b) 12-month expenditure - October 2023 to October 2024

Mulka Electorate		2024 Vehicle costs Total
Baniyala Garrangali School		\$29,987
Laynhapuy Homeland School		\$61,204
Milingimbi School		\$54,668
Nhulunbuy High School		\$2,388
Nhulunbuy Primary School		\$228
Ramingining School		\$103,444
Shepherdson College		\$94,380
Yirrkala School		\$77,516
Total		\$423,814

8. Please advise if the 12% (starting with 8% next year) pay rise for teachers will be paid for by each school from the school budget? In 2025, for a school with a current expenditure of \$2 million on teaching staff, will the school need to find approximately \$160 000 extra for the pay rise?

The pay rise will be paid from school budgets, noting school funding for 2025 had an uplift (mainly through the per student base rate) for estimated cost increases of 5.39%, which was expected to cover increases in staffing costs arising from the enterprise agreement.

- 9. Please advise if students on the ‘passive enrolment/intensive support’ list are funded in 2025? For example, in some communities there may be 80 – 100 students who may not have attended for more than 20 days, and in this case these students would be placed on the ‘passive enrolment/intensive’ list. Are these students funded in 2025?**

These students are not counted in the enrolment count used to calculate the Australian Government Schooling Resource Standard nor the allocation to NT schools through the School Resourcing Model.

- 10. How many students in the Mulka Electorate schools are currently on the “passive enrolment/intensive support’ list? When are students placed on this list?**

In Week 10, Term 3, 2024, the number of students on the Intensive Support roll was 165 in the Mulka Electorate.

Where a student has recorded 20 consecutive school days of Un-notified Absence and/or Unacceptable Reason for absence and the school has not received notification that the student is enrolled in another school, the student is moved to the Intensive Support roll.

- 11. Please advise how many Engagement Officers are employed in the NT? In 2024 were these positions centrally funded? And, in 2025 will they be centrally funded positions? Could you advise on the cost of these positions?**

In 2024 there are 35 student engagement advisors across the NT.

Funding for these positions is a combination of NT Government and Australian Government contributions through the NT Remote Aboriginal Investment strategy.

The 2025 projected cost for the 35 student engagement officers is \$5,111,099.

- 12. Please advise how many Wellbeing Officers are employed in the NT? In 2024 were these positions centrally funded? And, in 2025 will they be centrally funded positions? Could you advise on the cost of these positions?**

There are currently 8 student wellbeing advisors (formerly known as student wellbeing officers) employed across the NT. The 8 student wellbeing advisors were centrally funded in 2024 and will continue to be centrally funded in 2025. The 2025 projected cost for the 8 student wellbeing advisors is \$912,480.

- 13. From 2025, could you advise whether schools will have to pay for the services of curriculum specialists and specialist support staff for special needs students or otherwise, who are centrally or regionally located? And what will this cost for remote schools? Could you advise the cost of each of these positions?**

These specialists are employed in the department’s Teaching and Learning Services division. They are both centrally and regionally located and provide services at no cost to remote schools. The 2025 projected cost for the 47 curriculum specialists service NT government schools is \$11,787,666.

- 14. Please advise what each of the schools in the Mulka Electorate received in targeted funding for homeland schools in 2024 (or most recent year that the data is available for)? Will this targeted funding continue in 2025?**

The funding arrangements for schools with homelands in 2024 continue in 2025. Funding is outlined below:

Mulka Electorate	2024 Total Homeland funding
Laynhapuy Homelands School	\$3,210,571
Milingimbi School	\$676,377
Shepherdson College ¹	\$374,302
Total	\$4,261,250

Note: ¹ Shepherdson College received funding in 2024, however did not receive funding in 2025 as their homeland is not expected to operate in 2025. This will be adjusted if the homeland does operate.

- 15. What specific funding will homeland schools receive in 2025? And where does this funding come from?**

Consistent with school resourcing reform for 2025, schools with homeland learning centres are also funded on enrolment for 2025, using the average of Week 4, Term 1, 2024 and 2024 Age Grade Census. Homeland learning centres supplement was introduced in 2024 providing each homeland learning centre with a minimum funding level of \$302,303.

- 16. Could you provide a list of all expenditure that was centrally funded in 2024 that schools will be required to absorb in 2025?**

As detailed above, some targeted program funding is now included in the SNBFF, providing ongoing embedded funding and ensuring the NT has an equitable needs-based funding model. These programs are supported by the additional funding that was distributed to schools in 2025. Centrally funded vehicles that will now be paid for by schools from 2025 were also transferred with an increase to funding allocations totaling \$3 million.