

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Education:

#### Commonwealth Funding

Please advise the amount of funding that is provided by the Commonwealth Government for schools in my region? And also provide details of where this Commonwealth money is spent?

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#### ANSWER:

The allocation of Commonwealth and Northern Territory (NT) Government funding by individual school is published on the MySchool website (<https://myschool.edu.au/>). The 2017 data will be uploaded in the first half of 2019. As part of the MySchool reporting methodology, all government sector financial data accounts are audited prior to release.

The NT Government is the principal funder of government schools in the Territory. The level of Commonwealth Government funding provided to each system is determined using the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS). The SRS includes both direct operational costs for schools as well as departmental expenditure for centrally coordinated student support and corporate services.

Once Commonwealth Government funding is received by the Territory, it is pooled with NT Government funding for distribution through the school resourcing package, which includes a student needs based funding formula. For further information, please visit the department's website (<https://education.nt.gov.au/education/statistics-research-and-strategies/increasing-school-autonomy/school-funding>).

In addition to the school resourcing package, funding is allocated to the system to deliver enabling services to schools, for example, student support, curriculum development and school improvement.

The student needs based funding formula provides a simple, fair and transparent distribution of funds on a per student basis. The funding formula uses individual student information collected and validated by principals as part of the National August census to build a needs profile of students enrolled in each school. Needs weightings are applied for year level, socio economic status, Aboriginal status, Aboriginal concentration, remoteness of a school, English as a second language, students with additional needs, school size and distance education.

Schools have the flexibility and autonomy under this model to use their funding to deliver educational programs and services that meet the needs of their current students and school community. School Representative Bodies provide strategic oversight of the use of these resources while principals deliver the operational strategies through the teaching and learning program and school operations.

In addition to student needs based funding, some schools receive funding for targeted programs, In the Arnhem region, for example, five schools received a total of \$1.6 million to deliver Bilingual Education programs and six schools received a total of \$0.47 million for Homeland Learning in 2017-18.

In addition to Quality Schools funding, the Commonwealth Government also provides targeted funding for specific purposes. Table 1 shows the Commonwealth Government targeted funding for schools in the Nhulunbuy electorate and Gapuwiyak School and Maningrida College that were received by the NT Government and provided directly to the school. The amounts in the table exclude Commonwealth Government payments made directly to the school. In addition to these payments, additional Commonwealth Government funding is provided to run Families as First Teachers (FaFT), remote Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Foundational Learning programs in some schools.

**Table 1: 2017-18 Commonwealth targeted funding<sup>1</sup> (\$000)**

	NT Remote Aboriginal Investment	Remote Schools Attendance Strategy	Learning on Country	National School Chaplaincy	Total
Baniyala Garrangali School		2.0			<b>2.0</b>
Gapuwiyak School <sup>2</sup>	21.5	2.0			<b>23.5</b>
Maningrida College <sup>2,3</sup>	4.9		125.0		<b>129.9</b>
Milingimbi School <sup>2,3</sup>	15.0	2.0			<b>17.0</b>
Nhulunbuy High School <sup>3, 4</sup>				21.5	<b>21.5</b>
Nhulunbuy Primary School <sup>2</sup>	34.4			13.6	<b>48.0</b>
Ramingining School <sup>2</sup>	30.9				<b>30.9</b>
Shepherdson College <sup>2</sup>	36.0	2.0	100.0		<b>138.0</b>
Yirrkala Community School <sup>2</sup>	15.0		64.5		<b>79.5</b>
Yirrkala Homeland School	37.6				<b>37.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>195.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>289.5</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>527.9</b>

(1) The figures in the table only show the Commonwealth payments that were received by the NT Department of Education and paid to the school. It does not include Commonwealth payments made directly to the school.

(2) In addition to the figures in Table 1, the Commonwealth funds support to seven schools to run a FaFT program. Each FaFT site is staffed by a Family Educator and is supported by an Aboriginal Family Liaison Officer. Approximate cost for these two staff is \$230 000.

(3) In addition to the figures in Table 1, the Commonwealth funds between \$30 000 - \$50 000 support to three schools to run Remote VET.

(4) In addition to the figures in Table 1, the Commonwealth funds approximately \$60 000 to run Foundational Learning at Nhulunbuy High School.