

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

7th Assembly

13/03/1995

36. **Remote Area Teachers**

Mr. EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING

QUESTION

1. Has the Minister claimed that additional benefits worth \$15,000.00 per annum are paid to teachers in remote areas; if so, what are the details of those benefits.

ANSWER

Answered on 10/06/95

A number of benefits are available to teachers in remote areas of the Northern Territory to encourage them to take up these postings. The benefits are provided to all eligible teachers who wish to take advantage of them.

Below is a list of available benefits. Where possible, approximate dollar values have been assigned.

Incentive	Entitlement	\$ Value
Fares Out of Isolated Localities (FOIL fares)	2 FOILs per year to either Darwin or Alice Springs. (*Value given is based on Nhulunbuy-Darwin return)	900 p.a.*
Accommodation Allowance	3 days payable in conjunction with each FOIL fare. Total - 6 days per year.	427 p.a.
Subsidised Housing	Furnished accommodation provided.)
	Furniture/removal expenses paid on transfer/appointment) approx.)10 000)
	Payment of storage for furniture and household effects whilst in remote community))
	Minimum rents charged: currently \$25 per week. (Note that the standard of accommodation varies and rent charges are under review by the Commissioner for Public Employment.) Based on Housing Commission rental of a 3 bedroom house (\$125 per week), saving would be -	5200 p.a.
Rental Rebate	Between 25-100% (depending on degree of	

Scheme	remoteness: most schools fall into the 50-100% category) rebate on completion of each year in remote community. Using average of 75% (i.e. teachers pay only 25%), benefit would be -	975 p.a.
Departmental Vehicle	Limited use of Departmental vehicles provided	unable to calculate
Special Teaching Allowances	Teacher in Aboriginal schools/special classes Teacher in charge of a one-teacher school with primary classes	1227 p.a. 1974 p.a.
Priority Transfer Scheme	Priority transfer consideration for teachers after 3 years' service in remote localities	unable to calculate
Special Study Leave Program	1 semester full paid study leave at NTU (or other approved institution in NT) after accumulation of 20 credit points as determined by locality (e.g. in most remote locality - 1 semester after 4 years services). 2 semesters after 40 credit points	approx 15 000 p.a.
Accelerated Incremental Advancement	For neophyte teachers. They may jump from 2nd to 4th increment in their salary range if they have completed appropriate professional development and formal study programs	1475 p.a.
Household Insurance	Reimbursement of difference between cost of insurance premium in urban area and cost in remote locality. Up to \$300 p.a.	approx 150 p.a.
Staff Development	Priority to remote teachers for in-services	unable to calculate
Family Assistance during Professional Development	Employees living in remote localities attending urban in-service or professional development programs are entitled to bring their family on one occasion per year. Cost of the travel is borne by the Department	1300 p.a.
Freight Allowance	Freight paid by Department for perishable foodstuffs (up to 23 kg per week for teacher with dependants). Approximately \$38 per week (varies according to carrier charges). Full entitlement is for 52 weeks per year	approx 1970 p.a.
Special Travel Time	Special leave on full pay may be granted for up to 1.5 days prior to the close of business on the last day of school in order to catch connecting flights to holiday destinations	approx 245 p.a.
Free Electricity	Average amount paid by Department for each dwelling in remote localities	1230 p.a.
Free Water and Sewerage	Paid by Department of Lands, Housing and Local Government	unable to calculate

Business Days

Able to utilise up to 2 days emergency leave per year to undertake private business in a larger urban centre

approx
325 p.a.