

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Education:

Indigenous Schools Program Expenditure and Outcomes: Direct Instruction, LANE and Bilingual Education

Please provide me with the comparative information concerning Direct Instruction (DI), Literacy and Numeracy Essential program (LANE), and Bilingual Education programs.

- 1. Over the 2015, 2016 and 2017 financial year how much (Commonwealth and NT) is budgeted for Direct Instruction, LANE and Bilingual Education?**

Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) budget allocations for Direct Instruction and LANE are listed in the table below. Direct Instruction – maths commenced in Semester 2, 2016 with eight schools being accepted into the programme.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
LANE	\$69 500	\$517 000	\$2 196 500
DI	\$204 000	\$695 000	\$1 890 000

It should be noted that in addition to the above, the Australian Government funds Good to Great Schools Australia (GGSA) to deliver the Flexible Literacy for Remote Primary Schools Programme nationally at \$22 million over three years. The Northern Territory (NT) proportion of this funding is unknown. In 2017, the programme is delivering Direct Instruction – literacy in 17 schools.

NT Government budget allocations for bilingual education are listed below.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Bilingual ¹	\$2 891 000	\$3 101 000	\$3 194 000

¹ Budget allocations for bilingual schools include all staff. Core funded by NT Government only.

2. How many department support staff are there for DI, LANE and Bilingual Education?

Number of support staff:

	2017		
	Central	Regional	School
LANE ¹	11	6	-
DI ¹	2	-	-
Bilingual ²	3	-	30

¹ Positions listed are funded through the Australian Government's NTRAI Funding Agreement.

² Schools offering a bilingual program have additional staff.

3. Where are those department staff based?

Location of central support staff:

	Darwin	Palmerston	Katherine	Alice Springs	Barkly	Arnhem
LANE	13*	1	1	1	1	
DI	2**	-	-	-	-	
Bilingual	3***	-	3	10	-	17

* One staff member supports LANE implementation in Arnhem. The remainder are developing the resources or providing the professional learning.

** The Flexible Literacy for Remote Primary Schools Programme (Direct Instruction – literacy) is supported by numerous GGSA staff. The Darwin-based staff provide administration support to schools and communication and consultation with GGSA.

*** Two linguists and a Principal Consultant support this NT-wide programme from Darwin.

The majority of staff associated with the bilingual programs are based in schools to facilitate delivery.

Significant effort has been made to recruit staff to regional training positions for LANE. This has been achieved for Alice Springs, Barkly and Katherine. Arnhem schools are currently being serviced by staff located in Darwin as numerous attempts to recruit to the Arnhem region position have yet to find a suitable applicant.

4. How many staff over the last three years have been trained to deliver DI, LANE and Bilingual Education programs?

Number of attendees at training events:

	2015	2016	2017
LANE*	-	146	111
DI*	547	567	115
Bilingual	<i>Three bilingual staff members provide regular onsite support in the form of professional learning sessions to the nine schools.</i>		

*These numbers include teachers, teacher assistants and school leaders.

5. How many schools chose DI, LANE or Bilingual education? How does the department ascertain that choice?

The department is focused on implementing programs that improve the educational outcomes of Indigenous students in remote and very remote schools through the establishment of consistent, evidence-based approaches to teaching, learning and assessing literacy and numeracy.

LANE

In 2017, the Department of Education’s Strategic Plan commits to the continued rollout of agreed whole school approaches. LANE is one of the agreed approaches. In 2016, through an expression of interest process, 13 schools adopted LANE.

At the beginning of 2017, through negotiations with regional directors and schools, 17 additional schools are implementing LANE. To date, that is 30 government schools in remote and very remote contexts.

Direct Instruction

In 2015, 19 selected very remote schools in the NT were invited by GGSA to submit an expression of interest to participate in Direct Instruction through the Australian Government's Flexible Literacy for Remote Primary Schools Programme (Direct Instruction – literacy). All were accepted into the programme. An expression of interest process was also used to select eight schools for Direct Instruction – maths.

In 2016, two schools exited the Flexible Literacy for Remote Primary Schools Programme (Direct Instruction – literacy) and adopted LANE.

In 2017, there are 17 schools implementing Direct Instruction – literacy and of that 17, eight are also implementing Direct Instruction – maths.

Bilingual Education

There are nine bilingual schools, with school enrolments of approximately 1900 students. These are all long-term programs.

6. When will DI be reviewed?

An evaluation of the Australian Government's Flexible Literacy for Remote Primary Schools Programme is being prepared by the University of Melbourne which is due to be completed in 2017.

This evaluation is a part of the Australian Government's funding agreement with GGSA. Each term, GGSA provides principals and regional directors the data on each school's Direct Instruction implementation.