

**Question No: 142**

**Question: Facilities for Hearing-Impaired Students**

**Date: 11/08/92**

**Member: Mr STIRLING**

**To: MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING**

1. What departmentally-based and school-based units does the Department of Education have for teaching hearing-impaired students throughout the Northern Territory.
2. How many departmental personnel were employed in each of the above units during the following financial years -
  - (a) 1989-90;
  - (b) 1990-91; and
  - (c) 1991-92.
3. How many departmental personnel employed to teach hearing-impaired students have hearing-impaired teaching qualifications.
4. What are the staffing formulae for deafness units based at schools and preschools.
5. Have those staffing formulae changed since 1989-90.
6. Does the Northern Territory government have a policy to send newly-diagnosed children with hearing difficulties to their local schools; if so, when did this policy come into place.
7. What resources are schools receiving to adequately teach the students referred to in question 6.
8. How many students in the Northern Territory are classified as hearing-impaired.

**ANSWER**

1. Units are situated at Stuart Park Primary School and Sanderson High School in Darwin and Gillen Primary School in Alice Springs.
2. Personnel employed in units are as follows -

School	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Stuart Park Primary	4T, 3TA	3T, 2TA	3T, 2TA
Nightcliff Primary	1T, 1TA		
Sanderson High	1T, 1TA		
Traeger Park Primary	1T, 1TA	1T, 1TA	
Gillen Primary	1T, 2TA*		

\* = One TA is itinerant, servicing all urban schools in Alice Springs.  
T = Teacher, TA = Teacher Assistant.

3. 8.

4. The staffing formula is 1 Teacher and 1 Teacher Assistant per 5 identified students.

5. No.

6. Yes. The current policy was introduced in June 1988.

7. Aside from the units themselves, children are serviced by centrally based itinerant teachers who are supervised by the Education Officer, Hearing Impaired. In the Southern Region, students are further resourced by an Education Officer, Sensory Impairment.

Support is also provided to schools, students and communities through the Aboriginal Ear Health Program.

8. 80.