

EDUCATION AND TRAINING — LOCAL ACCESS FUNDING

4364. Mr R.S. Love to the minister representing the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the cuts to the Local Access funding provided to schools when students access SIDE, I ask:

- (a) on what date was the decision to curtail the funding announced;
- (b) has the measure been put in place as a direct result of the decision to retain Moora Residential College;
- (c) will the Minister please provide, in tabular form:
  - (i) the names and locations of the schools affected by the change; and
  - (ii) the number of students affected at each school by year group; and
- (d) how will this change impact students studying via School of Isolated Distance Education?

**Mr P. Papalia replied:**

- (a) On 13 December 2017, the Department of Education wrote to the principals of those schools receiving local access funding to advise of changes to the Targeted Initiative: Local Access from 2019. Local access funding is additional to that provided through the student-centred funding model for each student. Its purpose is to enable remote community schools, district high schools and primary schools that enrol secondary students to provide face-to-face teaching to small groups of students in Year 11 and 12 who do not have daily bus access to a senior high school and do not complete their studies through the School of Isolated and Distance Education.

A review of Local Access funding identified that many schools were receiving the additional funding for students that did have daily bus access to a senior high school or were completing their education program through the School of Isolated and Distance Education. Commencing in 2019, Local Access funding will be provided only to those Year 11 and Year 12 students receiving face-to-face teaching in the designated schools where daily bus access to a senior high school is not available. This will address the duplication of funding that has been occurring. It should be noted that there is no cost to these schools where they enrol students who complete their entire Year 11 and Year 12 education program through the School of Isolated and Distance Education.

The double-funding was first recognised in 2014.

- (b) No.
- (c)
  - (i) The name and locations of the schools eligible for local access funding will not be available until after the Semester 1, 2019 census.
  - (ii) The number of students at each school eligible for local access funding will not be available until after the Semester 1, 2019 census.
- (d) There will be no impact on students studying via SIDE or access to SIDE. Schools will continue to receive student-centred funding for all students including those senior students accessing SIDE courses. Principals allocate funding in the most appropriate way that supports student learning.