Base school allocation
RAM 2015 – Information sheet 1

The most complex component of the RAM is the base school allocation as it includes a number of school site specific loadings.

What is the base school allocation?
The Resource Allocation Model (RAM) is consistent with the Gonski model. There is base funding for each student and loadings are based on the same categories of need. The RAM has been designed to more precisely reflect the individual needs of each school and student.

The base school allocation reflects the school type (primary, secondary, central, Schools for Specific Purposes), and it includes:

- a school allocation with funding for professional learning
- a budget based on current staffing entitlement, adhering to the class size policy
- site loadings for:
  - school buildings and facilities
  - climate
  - location.

How are the loadings allocated for 2015?
The base school allocation is currently in development and will be in place on full implementation of the RAM from 2016. In 2015, the base allocation for most schools will be calculated using existing formula with the exception of the new location loading.

In 2015, the 229 schools which participated in the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership (ELSNP) will receive a total RAM allocation that incorporates:

- costed staff entitlements, and
- the sum of all existing global allocations including site loading for school buildings and facilities and site loading for climate.

Staffing allocation
In 2015, ELSNP schools will receive a staffing budget based on staff entitlements and standard costs. This will allow them flexibility in determining staffing needs to meet their local requirements.

All other schools will continue to receive their existing staff entitlement under existing formulae. The staffing entitlement under this allocation adheres to the class size policy.

Site loading for school buildings and facilities
All schools will retain existing global maintenance related allocations.

Site loading for climate
ELSNP schools will receive an allocation that reflects their actual expenditure on electricity and gas costs.

All other schools will continue to receive funding through their global allocation.

In 2015, a new site loading for climate will be developed.

Site loading for location
In 2015, remote and/or isolated schools eligible for funding due to their location will receive funding through the new location loading. This loading will be the first part of the base school allocation to be delivered (refer to information sheet 2).

Other allocations
All schools will receive the sum of all existing formulae used for global allocations, including the $50 primary student allowance, teacher professional learning and computer coordinator allowance.

There will also be a number of site specific allocations.

How will the base school allocation impact on the cost of teachers?
The biggest expenditure by a school is for classroom teachers who are paid across a range of different salary bands.

Under the RAM, a standard cost approach means that teachers on different salaries will cost the same to schools. Principals will not be required to select staff based on cost to a school. The actual differences in teacher costs will be managed at a system level.