In 2015, the base allocation for most schools will be calculated using existing formula with the exception of the new location loading.

From 2015, remote and/or isolated schools will receive funding through the new location loading. This is the first component of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) base school allocation to be delivered to schools.

**What is the location loading?**

The location loading recognises that some isolated schools are disadvantaged because it is harder to interact for teacher professional learning and they need additional funding to overcome their remoteness. This is consistent with the Local Schools, Local Decisions reform and the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action that promote collaboration and networking between schools.

The location loading recognises school needs in relation to:

- **remoteness** – disadvantage due to distance from population centres and the additional cost of goods and services
- **isolation** – disadvantage due to distance from other schools and the capacity to interact for teacher professional learning.

**How are remoteness and isolation calculated for the location loading?**

The location loading measures remoteness using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+). ARIA+ is a measure of service accessibility and remoteness derived from road distances between populated localities and ‘service centres’ – localities where the population is greater than 1,000.

ARIA+ is widely used across Australia and has become recognised as a nationally consistent measure of geographic remoteness. It forms the basis for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Area classification and has been the standard ABS endorsed measure of remoteness since 2011.

The road distances measured between populated localities are used to generate an index with values ranging from 0 (high accessibility) to 15 (high remoteness).

Using the ABS remoteness area classification, the location loading will provide funding to all schools classified as outer regional, remote and very remote as defined by an ARIA+ greater than 2.4.

The location loading measures isolation based on:

- a school’s enrolments
- a school’s distance from other schools.

While schools previously received some funding for remoteness under programs such as Country Areas Program (CAP) funding, this is the first time schools will receive funding in support of their disadvantage due to isolation.

**What does this mean for schools in 2015?**

In 2015, the location loading will deliver funding to more than 1,000 schools through their base loading.

**How will schools use the funding to support students?**

Base funds are typically used to support general school operations, and schools are expected to use the funds in the year they are received.

All schools have a school plan in which they show their communities how they propose to support students. Accountability for how the funds have been used will occur through the annual school report.