From 2015, remote and/or isolated schools received funding through the location allocation in the base. This was the first allocation of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) base to be delivered to schools.

What is the location allocation in the base?
The Local Schools, Local Decisions reform and the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action promote the importance of collaboration and networking between schools. The location allocation recognises that some isolated schools are disadvantaged because it is more difficult to interact for professional learning and additional funding will assist to counteract remoteness. The location allocation 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 their capacity to interact for staff professional learning.

How are remoteness and isolation calculated for the location allocation?
The location allocation measures remoteness using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+). 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.

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

The location allocation measures isolation based on:

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

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

What does this mean for schools in 2016?
In 2016, the location allocation will deliver funding to more than 1,000 schools.

How can 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 must show their school communities how they propose to support students. Accountability for how the funds have been used will occur through the annual report.