

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 40**

**Topic: NDIS and Gonski Changes on GST Relativities**

**Hansard Page: Wednesday 5 June 2013, Page 53**

**Senator CORMANN asked:**

**Senator CORMANN:** This is probably not a question for you; it is more a question for the minister. If the Commonwealth Grants Commission is not able to assess the flow-on impact of NDIS and Gonski changes on GST relativities, how can individual states be expected to assess the fiscal impact on them of the deals that are on the table?

**Senator Wong:** I do not know that that excuse has been the reason that your Premier has given for not signing up to DisabilityCare, and, as you know—

**Senator CORMANN:** I am asking you a genuine question.

**Senator Wong:** You asked a question and I will answer it.

**Senator CORMANN:** You are not answering it.

**Senator Wong:** I may not say what you want me to, but that is probably not unusual in this place. I do not think the lack of clarity around the GST impact of DisabilityCare has been the basis on which your Premier has refused to sign up to DisabilityCare, and I note that a number of coalition state governments have signed up in any event. As to your previous question to Mr Spasojevic, I will have to take that on notice.

**Senator CORMANN:** You are making assumptions about my motivation in asking the question. Given what Mr Spasojevic has just said, it is manifestly not possible for state governments to conclusively assess the fiscal implications for them of either the Gonski changes or the NDIS changes.

**Answer:**

On 15 June 2013, the former Treasurer, the Hon Wayne Swan MP, issued the Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC) with signed terms of reference for the 2015 Methodology Review.

The terms of reference include directions in relation to considering DisabilityCare Australia and reforms to school education funding as a matter of priority, in consultation with the Commonwealth and States and Territories.

The terms of reference are available on the CGC website [www.cgc.gov.au](http://www.cgc.gov.au).