

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000253

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah provided in writing.

Investment in school education

Question

You recently criticised state governments for not maintaining their investment in school education but it was your predecessor as Minister, Christopher Pyne, who changed the rules to make it so that states didn't have to maintain or increase their funding to receive Gonski funds. Do you think that Minister Pyne was made an error in relaxing those requirements?

Answer

The National Education Reform Agreement includes a requirement to maintain current funding effort. Five states and territories signed the agreement and only three have bilateral agreements in place that set out commitments to their share of funding.

As outlined in *Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes*, the Australian Government has indicated maintenance of funding effort will be a condition of future funding from the Commonwealth.