Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0230_14

Senator Mason asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 83

Question

Forecast expenditure under the Schools Assistance Act 2008

Senator MASON: Sure, but it is a big task. Good luck. It is a difficult task. I have a more prosaic question for Ms Paul. The 2013-14 budget suggests a continuation of two targeted programs previously funded under the Schools Assistance Act, which are short-term emergency assistance funding and capital grants funding but, seemingly, not all the others. The committee seeks clarification as to whether the following targeted programs have been discontinued and what is the previous value of these programs. Let me read out what they are— Senator Jacinta Collins: Just before you do, what do you mean by the previous value? Senator MASON: What the forecasts were for expenditure. The programs are: Indigenous supplementary assistance; Indigenous funding guarantee; country area programs; school languages program; English as a second language; literacy, numeracy and special learning needs; literacy, numeracy and special learning needs (students with a disability). Will you take that on notice? Ms Paul: Yes.

Answer

Most recent expense forecasts for Targeted Programs under the Schools Assistance Act

The *Schools Assistance Act 2008* provides for Indigenous Supplementary Assistance and the Indigenous funding guarantee as grants for recurrent expenditure, rather than grants for targeted expenditure, therefore they are included in the total for Non-Government Schools recurrent grants.

Estimates for Non-Government Schools recurrent grants, appropriated under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008* as at 2012-13 Additional Estimates, are provided in the table below:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Non-Government Schools Recurrent Grants	7,574.8	8,203.0	8,859.3	9,561.6	34,198.6

The previous forecast expenditure for: Education in Country Areas, Languages Education, Teaching English to New Arrivals, and Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning (both School Grants and Students with a Disability), as at 2012-13 Additional Estimates is provided in the table below:

Administered Program	2012-13 \$m	2013-14 \$m	2014-15 \$m	2015-16 \$m	Total \$m
Literacy, Numeracy & Special Learning - School Grants	177.8	189.3	199.7	210.5	777.3
Literacy, Numeracy & Special Learning - Students with a Disability	44.4	51.4	58.9	67.4	222.1
Education in Country Areas	6.5	7.0	7.4	7.8	28.6
Teaching English to New Arrivals	11.7	13.6	15.0	15.8	56.0
Languages Education	15.2	16.4	17.2	18.2	66.9
Total	255.6	277.6	298.2	319.7	1151.0

All programs listed herein are to be discontinued with all funding redirected to National Education Reform Agreement funding for Non-Government Schools effective 1 January 2014.