

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

#### Outcome: Schools and Youth

#### Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000940

Senator Collins, Jacinta asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 47

#### *Schools funding*

##### Question

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It is just that I have seen descriptions of that case and I have seen some descriptions of other schools put out to the media, but I still have not seen any analysis. I am a bit concerned about this process which is the minister or the department releasing convenient case examples to fit the story of the day, but still no underlying analysis because you are telling us that that is material before cabinet.

Senator Birmingham: As I said, we took an example to the education council to demonstrate, in a practical way, the way in which the different funding arrangements impact students in identical need circumstances based, from a federal funding perspective, purely on which state or territory they are in. I am happy, on notice, to provide you with the analysis of how that school of 700 students and the funding was calculated, and what it looks like across the different states and territories.

##### Answer

The analysis of the comparable hypothetical school taken to Education Council is presented below.

#### **Hypothetical low socioeconomic school**

##### *School characteristics*

- Metropolitan government school
- 700 students (half primary and half secondary)
- 85 per cent lowest quartile and 10 per cent second quartile of socio-educational disadvantage
- 25 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students
- 40 disadvantaged students with a language background other than English
- 20 students with a disability.

##### *Funding standard calculation*

The funding standard (or Schooling Resource Standard) is a measure of the relative need of schools and is calculated using base per student amount and loadings as set out in the Australian Education Act 2013. The funding standard is calculated using:

- number and proportion of Indigenous students
- composition of primary and secondary students
- number of students with a disability
- proportion of students in quartile 1 and 2 socio-educational disadvantage
- disadvantaged students with a language background other than English
- relative remoteness of the school
- size of school.

The average Commonwealth share of the funding standard for government schools in each state was then applied to the funding standard to provide indicative funding that the same school, with the same characteristics, would attract in each state.

The Commonwealth share of the funding standard in each state depends on historic funding and the negotiated transition rates for how funding would increase over time.

| <b>2017</b>   | <b>NT</b> | <b>TAS</b> | <b>QLD</b> | <b>NSW</b> | <b>VIC</b> | <b>ACT</b> | <b>SA</b> | <b>WA</b> |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Average CW share of funding standard for government schools (%) | 23.0      | 18.3       | 17.9       | 17.6       | 17.1       | 16.0       | 15.8      | 13.0      |
| Commonwealth funding (\$ per student)                           | 4,224     | 3,366      | 3,294      | 3,236      | 3,130      | 2,942      | 2,897     | 2,649     |

