

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0006\_14**

**Senator Back provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Catholic education - system funding arrangements***

System funding arrangements

1. What conditions will be placed on the distribution of funding within a Catholic education system?
  - a. With respect to per capita funding?
  - b. With respect to loading funding?
2. Will the acquittal required for per capita and loading funding be at a school or system level?
3. What additional reporting obligations will be imposed on schools and systems?
4. What arrangements will be in place to govern the relationship between current and future teacher salaries and additional funding?
5. What are the current settings for capacity to contribute?
  - a. For primary schools?
  - b. For secondary schools?
6. What autonomy will schools and systems have to determine fees?

**Answer**

**1. What conditions will be placed on the distribution of funding within a Catholic education system?**

- a. With respect to per capita funding?**
- b. With respect to loading funding?**

Under the new arrangements, it is anticipated that Catholic systems, like states and territories, will sign up to the National Plan for School Improvement and associated reforms as well as transparent, needs-based funding arrangements consistent with the Commonwealth's Schooling Resource Standard.

**2. Will the acquittal required for per capita and loading funding be at a school or system level?**

System-level needs based funding arrangements, including reporting requirements, will be agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth.

### **3. What additional reporting obligations will be imposed on schools and systems?**

Reporting obligations for schools and systems will be determined by the Regulations to the *Australian Education Act 2013*, which are being developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including the National Catholic Education Commission.

### **4. What arrangements will be in place to govern the relationship between current and future teacher salaries and additional funding?**

As with current arrangements for funding non-government schools, teacher salaries will be the responsibility of the system managers.

### **5. What are the current settings for capacity to contribute?**

#### **a. For primary schools?**

#### **b. For secondary schools?**

A student-weighted system average Capacity to Contribute measure will apply for Catholic systemic schools to determine the proportion of the base per student amount that will be publicly funded. Loadings are fully publicly funded and not subject to the Capacity to Contribute measure. In terms of the final outcome for Catholic systems, these numbers will be finalised through ongoing negotiations with state funding partners and in consultation with the sector.

### **6. What autonomy will schools and systems have to determine fees?**

As with the current arrangements for funding non-government schools, fees will be the responsibility of the system managers. There are no 'increases' in fees assumed in the model, at either the system or school level.