

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

#### Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0202\_14

Senator O'Neill asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 81

#### Question

#### Comparison of funding for Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory

Senator O'NEILL: With the amount that is currently on offer to Queensland, how does that compare with what they would have received had they signed up to the National Education Reform Agreement? Ms Paul: Once again, it gets updated for enrolment data against the new funding model. We can take that on notice and give you the comparison of what was in the public eye at the time of the former government's announcements and what would be available. Senator O'NEILL: Just in ballpark numbers, would that have been higher or lower? Ms Paul: We do not know. Mr Cook: It will depend. It will be driven very much by enrolments themselves. Just to reinforce my earlier statement, the government has indicated that it will match in 2014—it will have the same offer that the previous government made in relation to all states and territories, whether they had signed or not. The only differential will be the previous government was basing their figures on projections—what we thought would be enrolment growth, for example—and we are now in the process of getting the actual enrolment data from various states and territories. That comes in the month of November, so we are doing that at the moment. The variation will be mostly just about data. Senator O'NEILL: But we will be able to break that down to a per capita cost, per student cost, so we could actually make a comparison of whether they were going to have a higher degree of funding or a lower degree of funding had they signed up to the National Education Reform Agreement. Mr Cook: There is no change in relation to how the model would be applied, in terms of the per student price and things like that for 2014. Again, to be consistent, the government says they will match what the previous government had offered every state and territory, whether they had signed or not. Whether they signed is not the question, because the government has said they will match that in 2014. Senator O'NEILL: I beg to differ. I think that signing up to the National Education Reform Agreement would make some difference. Would you be able to provide me with those details—a comparison between what they would have received had they signed up for the National Education Reform Agreement and what is actually going to be on offer for not only Queensland but also WA and the NT. Mr Cook: Sure, which will be the same, as we have said. The actual wording is: 'Commonwealth schools funding committed by the previous government for 2014 will flow to all states and territories irrespective of whether they had signed a deal or not.' Regarding the offer that was made in April, for example—I think when a range of offers was made by the previous government—that is what the government, through its election commitment, has said it will match for 2014. Senator O'NEILL: I understand that there is a difference between the two figures. Perhaps you could find that out for me, because that is what I am thinking. Ms Paul: The commitment is the same, but we will take that on notice and make that clear.

## Answer

The tables below detail the total Commonwealth funding offered to each of the three states, as well as the level of Commonwealth funding if these states had signed the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) proposed by the previous Government.

These amounts will be adjusted when actual enrolment data for 2014 is available next year.

Qld	Commonwealth funding in 2014 under:	
	Current Offer	NERA
Government	\$1 046 million	\$1 046 million

WA	Commonwealth funding in 2014 under:	
	Current Offer	NERA
Government	\$490 million	\$490 million

NT	Commonwealth funding in 2014 under:	
	Current Offer	NERA
Government	\$128 million	\$128 million