

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. ED0146_14

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Question

Better Schools plan

1. For each state and territory that signed an agreement under the Better Schools Plan (NSW, SA, ACT, Tasmania and Victoria), please provide the following information: i. The Commonwealth's agreed total financial commitment in each year from 2014 to 2019, for each sector (government, Catholic and independent). ii. The agreed financial commitment in each year from 2014 to 2019, for each sector, by the state or territory.
2. What accountability mechanisms will apply for state and territory governments who receiving funding under the Better Schools Plan?
3. What is the financial commitment, for each schooling sector, from the Commonwealth government for Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory over the forward estimates?
4. What accountability requirements will apply to schools funding provided to those jurisdictions?
5. What proportion of (a) government, (b) Catholic and (c) independent schools are estimated to be operating above the Schooling Resource Standard in 2014?
6. Can you provide a breakdown of actual or projected Commonwealth funding for each Catholic and independent school in 2014, with reference to the following attributes for each school: name, location, state, postcode, federal electorate, SES score, estimated primary students in 2014, estimated secondary students in 2014, recurrent primary funding per capita in 2014, recurrent secondary funding per capita in 2014, total recurrent funding 2014 and percentage increase in recurrent funding from 2013 to 2014.
7. What funding mechanisms will Catholic school authorities in each state and territory use to distribute funding provided under the Better Schools Plan? i. How will the school authorities be accountable to the Commonwealth government for the expenditure of that money?
8. What funding mechanisms will independent school authorities in each state and territory use to distribute funding provided under the Better Schools Plan? i. How will the school authorities be accountable to the Commonwealth government for the expenditure of that money?

Answer

1. The government has committed to match the funding offer from the previous governments over the forward estimates. The value of these offers, in calendar year terms over the forward estimates, is provided below.

Financial Commitment for Commonwealth funding by year, forward estimates				
(\$ millions)				
NSW	2014	2015	2016	2017 (half year)
Government	1,492.8	1,651.1	1,817.9	1,069.7
Catholic	1,564.3	1,665.2	1,769.1	947.2
Independent	1,067.9	1,138.2	1,211.4	649.6

Financial Commitment for Commonwealth funding by year, forward estimates				
Vic	2014	2015	2016	2017 (half year)
Government	1,117.0	1,284.6	1,384.5	748.8
Catholic	1,496.4	1,609.8	1,729.8	927.2
Independent	718.2	778.1	842.5	455.2

Financial Commitment for Commonwealth funding by year, forward estimates				
SA	2014	2015	2016	2017 (half year)
Government	364.9	386.2	409.5	216.4
Catholic	343.4	364.5	387.7	205.9
Independent	312.8	331.6	352.1	186.8

Financial Commitment for Commonwealth funding by year, forward estimates				
Tas	2014	2015	2016	2017 (half year)
Government	151.4	162.7	176.5	95.3
Catholic	115.7	125.2	134.8	72.5
Independent	59.4	64.7	70.4	38.2

Financial Commitment for Commonwealth funding by year, forward estimates				
ACT	2014	2015	2016	2017 (half year)
Government	71.4	74.7	78.2	40.9
Catholic	89.4	96.8	104.4	56.2
Independent	72.7	76.1	79.7	41.8

2. What accountability mechanisms will apply for state and territory governments who receiving funding under the Better Schools Plan?

Accountabilities applying to state and territory governments are those required under the Australian Education Act 2013 and either the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) or National Education Agreement depending on whether the state or territory is a signatory to the NERA.

3. What is the financial commitment, for each schooling sector, from the Commonwealth government for Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory over the forward estimates?

Financial Commitment for Commonwealth funding, forward estimates				
State	Government	Catholic	Independent	Total
QLD	4,443.9	4,295.3	2,832.5	11,571.6
WA	2,035.8	1,970.8	1,711.0	5,717.6
NT	506.0	187.2	228.6	921.8

4. What accountability requirements will apply to schools funding provided to those jurisdictions?

See response to question 2.

5. What proportion of (a) government, (b) Catholic and (c) independent schools are estimated to be operating above the Schooling Resource Standard in 2014?

As the resourcing of Government and Catholic schools is a matter for system authorities, we are unable to provide information on the resourcing of individual schools within these systems.

Of all systems, only the ACT Government sector is estimated to be operating above the Schooling Resource Standard in 2014.

Of the 1075 independent schools within the model used to estimate and project costs of the funding arrangements, 191 out of 1075, or 17.8%, are estimated to be operating above the Schooling Resource Standard in 2014.

6. Can you provide a breakdown of actual or projected Commonwealth funding for each Catholic and independent school in 2014, with reference to the following attributes for each school: name, location, state, postcode, federal electorate, SES score, estimated primary students in 2014, estimated secondary students in 2014, recurrent primary funding per capita in 2014, recurrent secondary funding per capita in 2014, total recurrent funding 2014 and percentage increase in recurrent funding from 2013 to 2014.

Funding during the transition period is calculated in accordance with Part 3, Division 5 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* at the level of the Approved Authority. An Approved Authority may represent a single school or a group of more than one school – an Approved System Authority. Under the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* an Approved System Authority has the responsibility for distributing the total funding it receives on behalf of its member schools to those schools in accordance with an approved system arrangement.

The attached Table includes funding at the level of the Approved Authority for non-government schools (allocated under the *Australian Education Act 2013* as at 12 December 2013).

The Table includes the estimated Commonwealth funding in 2013 and 2014, noting this is a provisional entitlement subject to change in 2014 once final enrolments and demographic information is known for each school.

Funding is not available by electorate as the funding calculator which determines entitlements for schools does not contain information on electorate.

Catholic and independent systems are the Approved Authority and are responsible for the final allocation of funding to schools within their system.

7. What funding mechanisms will Catholic school authorities in each state and territory use to distribute funding provided under the Better Schools Plan? i. How will the school authorities be accountable to the Commonwealth government for the expenditure of that money?

Non-government education authorities are required under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) to distribute funding on a needs-basis in accordance with the Act. Accountabilities applying to Catholic systems are those required under the Act.

8. What funding mechanisms will independent school authorities in each state and territory use to distribute funding provided under the Better Schools Plan? i. How will the school authorities be accountable to the Commonwealth government for the expenditure of that money?

See response to question 7.