



**The Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP**  
**Minister for Education**

Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins  
Chair  
Senate Select Committee on School Funding  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Collins

JACINTA

I write in response to your correspondence of 29 May 2014, regarding a presentation by the NSW Department of Education and Communities on needs-based funding. I note you have also written to Dr Michele Bruniges AM, Secretary, Department of Education and Communities regarding this matter.

The Department has hosted two presentations which outlined the New South Wales reform agenda on school funding. The briefings contain information that is now out of date and, as such, would be of limited use to the Committee.

New South Wales is committed to improving education outcomes through better needs-based funding mechanisms. In particular, the State is developing improved ways of measuring disadvantage, and targeting resources to ameliorate this disadvantage. These principles align very closely with the recommendations of the Federal Review of Funding for Schooling, and in fact, New South Wales put forward many of these concepts in its submissions to the Review.

New South Wales made two submissions to the Review, which can be located through the following links:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/about-us/news-at-det/announcements/yr2011/schoolfundingreview/submission.pdf>

[http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/documents/15060385/15385042/interim\\_submission.pdf](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/documents/15060385/15385042/interim_submission.pdf)

The New South Wales Resource Allocation Model (RAM) for government schools has been developed using needs-based principles that are consistent with the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS). The SRS adopts a 'base' and 'loading' structure that reflects the school-level cost of achieving a particular academic standard. The RAM also uses this structure, but with loadings that are specifically targeted to the New South Wales context.

RML14/2219  
DGL14/633

More information on the RAM can be found at:

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-the-department/our-reforms/local-schools-local-decisions/reform-agenda/resource-allocation-model>

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Adrian Piccoli MP**  
**Minister for Education**

17 JUN 2014