

Question on notice no. 2

Portfolio question number: SQ24-001411

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

Education and Employment Committee, Education Portfolio

Senator Penny Allman-Payne: asked the Department of Education on 7 November 2024—

Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Minister, given the wellbeing focus of this government—and I do recognise that is a significant component of the BFSa—will the government look to common standards for all schools that receive public money to ensure they do have policies in place for people experiencing financial hardship and particularly in cases where we're seeing, as I said, parents having to remove their kids when the school is not doing what they should be?

Senator Chisholm: I want to touch on the previous question. I read those same stories you did and they were harrowing. I'd certainly pass on my condolences to the family and friends who were involved in that circumstance. In terms of the question around wellbeing, it obviously is an important issue. I think I've talked about it previously at Senate estimates, probably in answer to questioning by you, around the thing that I was struck most by when we had the roundtable with regards to the School Reform Agreement a couple of years ago. That was probably the session that was most animated from the experts in the room in terms of wellbeing. I am pleased there is a strong focus on it. In terms of the thinking about what would be required, I'm not aware that there are any movements in that space. The Secretary might be able to add to that. I certainly am happy to take on notice and have a chat to Minister Clare about it, because I do understand how important it is.

Answer —

Please see PDF attachment.

Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024 - 2025

Outcome: Minister

Department of Education Question No. SQ24-001411

Senator Penny Allman-Payne on 07 November 2024, Proof Hansard page 25

Minister for Education | Wellbeing standards for school funding

Question

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Answer

The Minister for Education has provided the following response.

All schools should consider the health and wellbeing of their entire school communities in their decision-making.

State and territory governments are responsible for registering and regulating schools (both government and non-government) in accordance with the state or territory legislation governing schools.

The department has written to state and territory education departments and non-government sector peak bodies to seek information on their requirements for schools to have financial hardship policies.