

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Treasury

Questions: BET 48

Topic: Schools funding

Reference: Hansard, pg. 134-135, 4 June 2014

Senator: Wright

Question:

48. Senator WRIGHT: I would like to have a bit of a better understanding about the proportion of the \$80 billion reduction in hospitals and schools funding flagged in the budget papers, which relates to school funding. What proportion of that figure will come from schools?

Mr Ray: Earlier we took a question on notice which would go to the precise numbers. Senator Wong asked us, effectively, to provide the detail of the gap between the two lines in the chart and we took that on notice.

Senator Cormann: We will provide that on notice.

Mr Ray: But I did say earlier that the schools number is something less than \$30 billion, and something more than 50 is the hospitals.

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you. I realise that maybe these questions have been asked before but I am asking them just for the sake of completeness. Perhaps if I could just ask you, you could indicate if they are going to be answered on notice anyway.

I am interested in knowing—and I presume that this is what you are going to do—the reduction for schools for each year over the period from 2018 to 2024-25, year by year.

Senator Cormann: Sorry, I have to correct that—when you say 'reduction'. There is an artificial line, which is a dollar line, in the budget overview which presents an unfunded trajectory and then there is our funding growth trajectory.

Senator WRIGHT: All right. I would like to know what the difference is between those two lines—

Senator Cormann: And we have taken that on notice.

Answer:

48. From the 2018 school year onwards, total school funding will be indexed by the Consumer Price Index, with an allowance for changes in enrolments. As Senator Cormann noted, the difference between the two lines was asked for in BET 41. This question has been answered.