

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics
Question No: 34
Topic: Victorian Catholics Report
Reference: Hansard page 73-75 (31 May 2017)
Senator: Collins, Jacinta

Question:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Ahead of this request on 9 May, had the ABS had any previous dialogue with the department of education about similar matters since the Gonski review in 2011 recommended that these matters should be comprehensively reviewed?

Mr Kalisch: I am not aware of anything, but I have only been statistician since the end of 2014.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Could you take that on notice?

Mr Kalisch: I can take that on notice.

[...]

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Okay. I can go to the detail of that and you may be able to help with some of that. Some of the direct methods that Catholic Education Commission of Victoria was referring to I would like to see in relation to, for example, the income of families with primary-school-age children as opposed to secondary-school-age children. I would also like to see the data around workforce participation of families with primary-school-age children versus secondary-school-age children. So I am assuming the ABS—from the census—has collected data about the age of children. It might have to be households rather than families; I am not sure. But I am sure that there is data in the last census that would assist in understanding whether there are different capacities to contribute issues for families with primary-school-age children as opposed to secondary-school-age children.

Mr Kalisch: We would need to precisely look at these dimensions and see what was possible through a customised request, or alternatively through the TableBuilder products. We have TableBuilder, which does enable people to get more refined data and, I suppose, clearer data.

[...]

Mr Kalisch: Yes. We can certainly provide that to you on notice. The other dimension I would note as well is that some of that income is important for us to continue our business. We do get a certain amount of an appropriation from government that enables us to do a certain amount of work. If there is anything beyond that—and some of these customised requests, if it is in that nature, can be quite detailed. This one—"

Answer:

The Department of Education and ABS began discussing datasets that could contribute to estimates of Socio-Economic Status scores in November 2016.

The data requested on notice was provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment at a Public Hearing on June 5 as part of the inquiry into the Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017. This information is available via the Senate Inquiry page under [Additional Documents](#).

(http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/AustralianEducation2017/Additional_Documents).