

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000207

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

Victorian Heads of Agreement under the National Education Reform Agreement

Question

Referring to the Victorian Heads of Agreement under the National Education Reform Agreement:

- a) Is the Department confident that for the 2014 school year, the Victorian Government upheld all required elements of the agreement?
- b) Was funding maintained as required?
- c) Did the Victorian Government make the full additional contributions as required in 2014?
- d) Where those contributions distributed to schools through a needs-based process as required?
- e) Can the Department confirm that every school that would have received funding under the Low Socioeconomic Status School Communities National Partnerships in 2014 continued to receive at least an equivalent level of support in 2014?

Answer

a, b & d) The Victorian Government committed to providing its contribution of general recurrent funding to schools, on a needs-basis, as outlined in the Victorian Heads of Agreement. The department is not aware of any change to this commitment in 2014.

c) The 2014–15 Victorian State Budget included funding to meet the state's contribution in additional funding for 2014 in accordance with the Victorian Heads of Agreement. The 2014–15 State Budget does not have funding projections beyond the 2014–15 financial year.

The 2014 funding amounts will be reported on the *My School* website when the audited data becomes available. This is expected to occur in March 2016. Under section 35 of the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* the Victorian Government will report its distribution of Australian Government funding to government schools, for the 2014 school year, in 2015. This has been requested to be done by 30 June 2015.

e) The funding provided through the Low Socioeconomic Status School Communities National Partnership was incorporated into the baseline funding amounts for recurrent funding arrangements from 1 January 2014. All school approved authorities received at least three per cent more in per student funding for 2014 over the previous year, including the National Partnership amounts that had been rolled into the baseline.

Under its Heads of Agreement the Victorian Government committed it would ensure that schools that would have received funding under the Low Socioeconomic Status School Communities National Partnership in 2014 and/or 2015 would continue to receive at least an equivalent level of support. The department is not aware of any change to this commitment in 2014.