

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000098

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

School improvement plans

Question

The Australian has reported:

“He said schools would have to provide “school improvement plans” from January 2017, to show how taxpayer funding was lifting students’ results.” (The Australian, 6 November 2015) Yet the Minister (Simon Birmingham) issued a statement on that same day (6 November 2015) stating:

“The Australian Government’s position in relation to school autonomy and school improvement plans has not changed...”

- a. What is the government’s position on school improvement plans?
- b. Will schools be required to submit them in 2017?
- c. If school improvement plans are not in place – and the Minister has not introduced any other accountability or transparency measures – how does the Government know how federal school funding is being used to improve results?

Answer

- a. The Australian Government believes the current school improvement planning requirements under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) impose unnecessary regulatory burden on schools. All state and territory education systems and the non-government sector already have in place a range of frameworks that require schools to develop and provide school improvement plans. This was communicated by stakeholders during consultation on the legislation.
- b. Schools do not need to comply with these requirements at this time.
- c. All approved authorities for schools are required to comply with the accountability and transparency requirements under the Act. Further, the Government acknowledges that states and territories and the non-government sector already have in place a range of reviews and improvement frameworks targeted at improving school performance.