

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000100

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Northern Territory's Gonski/recurrent school funding

Question

NT Education Minister Peter Chandler said in the NT News on November 6 that:

"Mr Chandler said the Territory Government had chosen to invest some of its Commonwealth funding into capital works rather than classrooms..."

- a. Is that an acceptable use of recurrent Gonski/schools funding – to channel it into capital works the Territory would otherwise have funded, rather than making sure it went to programs to improve educational outcomes?
- b. It was discussed at the last estimates that the NT budget papers shows a 4.7% drop in per student spending on public schools between 2012/13 and the 2015/16 budget. Where has the Gonski/recurrent school funding gone in the NT then and what is the Government doing to remedy the reduction in education expenditure by the Territory Government?

Answer

- a. Each jurisdiction has the budget flexibility to allocate funds to implement agreed national policy initiatives.

The Northern Territory, like all other states and territories, are able to use recurrent funding under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) for capital purposes.

- b. The Northern Territory has certified that all Commonwealth funding received in the 2014 programme year under the Act was spent for the 'purpose of providing school education'. State and territory funding is a matter for those jurisdictions.