

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0228_14

Senator Mason asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 77

Question

Gonski funding for NSW schools - disclosure

Senator MASON: Just to go back—and you can take this notice—I asked previously: what percentage of the Gonski entitlement, in other words, the additional funding under Gonski, without indexation or enrolment growth, would a school in New South Wales receive in 2014? I think I also said 'and in every other year, the six-year transition period'. That is the question I want on notice, year by year. Mr Cook: Just to help clarify: of course, a school in New South Wales could get very different funding, depending on the circumstances of that school. Are you talking about the average per school? Senator MASON: Yes. Not a school, but the average school in New South Wales. Ms Paul: An Indigenous School in Wagga. Mr Cook: We will make some assumptions. Senator MASON: What will New South Wales schools receive in aggregate, year by year? Ms Paul: Okay. Mr Cook: The only point I will make is that the New South Wales system will be the system that actually allocates money to their schools. We allocate, through the model, the amount of money that goes to the New South Wales state government, for example, or to the New South Wales Catholic system. The system will then allocate based on a consistent, needs based funding model. Senator McKENZIE: But doing it in aggregate will get around that. Mr Cook: That is directly as the model would apply. Senator McKENZIE: So the Commonwealth will be directly funding this? Mr Cook: No, we will not be. As it does currently, it will go through state treasuries and state treasuries will provide that funding to— Senator McKENZIE: But the Catholic system— Mr Cook: It will go to the state treasuries still and the state treasurers will provide it to the Catholic system. Senator McKENZIE: The same method as now? Mr Cook: That is correct. Senator MASON: There is an agreement with New South Wales. Mr Cook: That is correct. Senator MASON: It is a public agreement? Mr Cook: That is right. It is actually on the website at the moment—the heads of agreement. Senator MASON: The year by year funding therefore—that is not on the website? Mr Cook: I understand that was in an exchange of letters between the Premier and the Prime Minister. I do not think it is part of the heads of agreement. The total amount is in the heads of agreement—the \$3.2 billion from the Commonwealth and the \$1.8 billion from the state. Senator MASON: The total amount but not the year by year? Mr Cook: I do not think so. Ms Paul: I think I have said in evidence already that—I think you asked for it—it was not public and we would need to seek the agreement of New South Wales to make it public. Making it public is a matter between the Premier and the PM. Senator MASON: I cannot see at all why it would be confidential. Ms Paul: We will take it on notice.

Answer

It is not possible to remove enrolment and indexation growth from these estimates.

The aggregate amount of additional public funding that NSW schools will receive by sector, year by year over the 6 years can be found here:

www.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/about-us/news-at-det/media-releases1/budget-2013-agreement.pdf.

There is a total of over 3000 schools in NSW, comprising over 2000 government, around 550 Catholic and almost 400 independent schools.

Based on the total additional funding that each sector attracts under the SRS over the 6-year agreement, on average, this corresponds to over \$1.5 million per school in NSW.