

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0210_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Australian Education Act 2013

PBS pg 45 also says "Consultation will occur with school authorities during 2014 to amend the Australian Education Act 2013 (the Act) to reduce regulatory burden and ensure states and territories remain responsible for schools and non-government schools maintain their independence and autonomy."

- a. Why did that consultation not occur prior to deciding on a new funding model for schools?
- b. Why was a new funding model not discussed at COAG or at the most recent meeting of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood?
- c. Has the Department commenced any work to amend the Education Act?
- d. When does the Government anticipate it will introduce legislative amendments to the Education Act in the Parliament?
- e. Will there be a public consultation process prior to legislative amendments being drafted? Will there be an exposure draft?

Answer

- a. The consultation that is occurring in 2014 relates to the removal of the command and control features of the *Australian Education Act 2013* and the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* in keeping with the government's *Students First* policy.
- b. As referenced in the communique from the 2 May 2014 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the Commonwealth and the states and territories agreed to defer discussion of schools policy and funding to the next COAG meeting. Schools funding was raised for discussion at the 11 April 2014 Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood meeting.
- c. The department has received submissions from stakeholders on the removal of the command and control elements of the *Australian Education Act 2013* and the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.
- d. The Minister for Education the Hon Christopher Pyne MP has indicated that amendments relating to command and control will be introduced in the future following the current consultation process.
- e. No decisions have been made on public consultation.