

**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. ED0245\_15**

**Senator O'Neill provided in writing.**

**Question**

**National Plan for School Improvement**

Is the National Plan for School Improvement being implemented? a. What funding has been withdrawn from the plan since the election? Specifically, what funding has been withdrawn from individual programs and line items? b. How will this reduction in funding impact the implementation of the National Plan for School Improvement? c. Will any element of the plan be implemented?

**Answer**

There has been no reduction to recurrent funding to schools for the next four years.

Funding for the National Plan for School Improvement (NPSI) included a wide range of programmes relating to reforms to state and territory practices as described in the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) and signed by five states and territories (New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory).

Following the 2013 federal election the Government announced that it would deliver the quantum of recurrent funding to schools promised by the previous government to the five jurisdictions that did not sign up to, or fully complete, agreements under the NERA/NPSI. This included reinstatement of \$1.2 billion that was removed by the previous government.

Savings of approximately \$107.6 million over five years to 2017–18 relating to national reform programmes within the NPSI were announced by Government through the 2013–14 MYEFO and 2014–15 Budget. Almost all of this funding was for portfolio agencies (ACARA, AITSL and ESA) to lead national reforms under the NPSI. No work had been commissioned or commenced under these budget lines.

On 2 April 2014, the Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, wrote to key education stakeholders inviting submissions on the removal of the command and control features of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) and *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the Regulation).

Stakeholders have raised aspects of the NERA and NPSI as an overreach of Commonwealth powers and involving unnecessary reporting to the Commonwealth.

The Government also intends to consult on possible further changes to the legislation in the future. This will take into account broader discussions on federal financial relations through the White Paper on Federalism.