

## 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. ED0314\_15

Senator Collins asked on 4 June 2014, Hansard page 95

#### Question

##### Indexation data

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Sure. I have not forgotten that. Mr Cook referred to the fact that in the letter to the states and territories, we were now able to embrace, I suppose, the 2013 data. Mr Cook: That is correct. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Are you able to provide us with some information on the difference between the 2011 and the 2013 data? Mr Cook: Sure. This will be very global. I am happy to take more detail on this. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Perhaps you could just deal with that on notice. Mr Cook: Yes, sure. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I meant to ask it of you at the time. Mr Cook: The short thing was obviously enrolment changes. What we projected is enrolment growth from 2011 may be different in some states to what it actually was in 2013. I think that impacted on Victoria, for example. The projection in 2011 enrolment growth was larger than what the actual enrolment was in 2013. So it is things like that which are the issues. There are some demographic differences as well.

#### Answer

The key differences between the two sets of data are related to enrolments and the population of schools:

- Initially 2011 enrolments were projected to estimate funding, whereas by January 2014 the actual 2013 enrolments were available.
- There are differences in the list of actual schools that were active at each point in time.

Towards the end of 2013, the department engaged in a data cleansing exercise aimed at reducing any significant variability between estimated (based on 2011 data) and actual 2013 data. This exercise predominately focused on schools in the Independent sector and involved adjustments to Socio Educational Advantage, Disadvantaged Language Backgrounds Other Than English and financial data. Adjustments were made to the data as a result.

As is normal practice the department will continue to update the data used to calculate payments during 2014.