

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. ED0315_15

Senator Collins asked on 4 June 2014, Hansard page 95

Question

Projected indexation

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: That is the part that I am also interested in. Whilst we are still on indexation, your answer to question 9 from the public hearings on 16 May was addressing the issue of nonparticipating government schools. You indicated that those jurisdictions provided forecasts and projections of their indexation rates in the 2011-14 period in the December 2012 heads of Treasury negotiation process. Are you able to provide us any more detail about that? Mr Cook: There was a process that was run by Treasury, where all states and territories were asked to provide information about their projected indexation. The purpose of that was for the previous government to look at what future indexation might look like. That was the main reason for that. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Are you able to tell us what those projected indexation figures were? Mr Cook: I will have to take that on notice. Not off the top of my head. We will certainly have a look at it. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I ask cautiously because you refer to a negotiation process. Mr Cook: Yes. So I will have to look, because it was actually done by Treasury, not by us. We will have to go to Treasury to seek that advice. It was done through a senior officers process. Normally those processes are confidential. But I am happy to take it on notice and talk to my Treasury colleagues about that.

Answer

The Senior Officials Working Group on Schools' Funding commissioned Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) with a process to share state and territory projected levels of funding for schools.

As the information provided formed part of the schools' funding negotiation process, HoTs agreed that information would be shared on a confidential and without prejudice basis.