

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000344

Senator Wright, Penny asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 94

School funding data

Question

Senator WRIGHT: I will ask you to take this on notice. Does it take account of increasing enrolments?

Mr Cook: Well, it would normally do.

Senator WRIGHT: You will take it on notice?

Mr Cook: Yes.

Senator WRIGHT: Does it take account of cost increases?

Mr Cook: Well, this is expenditure.

Senator WRIGHT: Does it take account of—

Senator SINODINOS: In real terms, so it is ahead of inflation?

Mr Cook: That is right. That is correct. But I will take it on notice.

Senator WRIGHT: Does it take account of changes in the composition of enrolments?

Mr Cook: Again, I will take it on notice.

....

Senator WRIGHT: I am interested in interrogating this claim of a 40 per cent increase over 10 years. I ask you to take on notice the amount of the increase in school funding per student adjusted for inflation and excluding book entry items over the last decade. It may be that that is actually what that table represents.

Mr Cook: We can certainly take on notice to work out what a book entry item actually is. But we can take it on notice.

Answer

Refer to SQ15-000435.

The data takes inflation and the effect of increasing enrolments into account. Changes in the composition of enrolments between primary and secondary have not been isolated.

Any questions regarding the assumptions and calculations relating to schools funding in the Report on Government Services, including book entry items, should be referred to the Productivity Commission.