

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000435

Senator Wright, Penny provided in writing

School funding in RoGS

Question

After the recent meeting of the National Education Council, the Minister for Education repeated his claim that school funding has increased by 40 per cent in the last 10 years. When asking the Department for evidence behind this claim, the Department of Education and Training stated that the source was the Report on Government Services 2015, Table 4A.7.

This table shows that the increase over the period 2003-04 to 2012-13 was 21.7 per cent in real terms, about half of the increase claimed by the Minister. However, this table refers to aggregate funding and makes no allowance for increasing student enrolments.

Table 4A.17 on the other hand shows real funding per student and the increase between 2003-04 and 2012-13 was only 12.7 per cent, or only about one-third of that claimed by the Minister.

- a) Could you please provide the source of the Minister's claimed increase?
- b) The Report on Government Services figures include book entry items for public schools, such as the user cost of capital and depreciation, as well as payroll tax. Could you please provide an estimate of the real increase in funding per student for 2003-04 to 2012-13 net of these items?

Answer

- a) Table 4A.7 of the Report on Government Services (RoGS) 2015 shows a 44.1 per cent increase in Commonwealth funding for all schools in real terms over the period 2003-04 to 2012-13 – refer Australian Government Specific Purpose Payments, excluding joint programmes (excluding capital grants).
- b) Any questions regarding the assumptions and calculations in RoGS, including book entry items, should be referred to the Productivity Commission.