

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000514

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

Also refer to previous Question No. SQ15-000246

Review of school funding loadings

Question

In relation to QoN 5 from the Senate Select Committee on school funding, which outlines a program of reviews the Minister was pursuing and QoN SQ15-000246 which states that the disability, low SES and English Language review have been completed.

1. For each review scheduled to be completed by now, Why have they not been published? Was it a decision of the Minister not to publish them?
2. Does the Department have the review findings? Can these be provided or published? When will they be published?
3. In each review please provide a full list of all consultation undertaken, the number of submissions received, provide the submission themselves and provide details of any reports or outcomes from these reviews? – where this information has not already been provided
4. What is the expected outcome from these reviews? Are changes to policy or legislation being considered? When would they occur?
5. Has the review of indexation been completed? When does the department expect this will be completed?

Answer

The reviews of the English language proficiency (ELP), low socio-economic status (SES) and students with disability loadings have been finalised. The consultation process honoured the Australian Government's commitment to engage the signatories of the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA), in a review of the loadings. On this basis, it was not a public review and findings will not be published.

In addition to the NERA signatories, the Government broadened the consultation process to include other key stakeholders to ensure a genuinely national approach to funding. A list of invitees was provided in SQ15-000246.

The department received 26 written submissions for the low SES loading review. Stakeholders were invited to provide submissions on the basis that they would only be used for departmental purposes to inform the review and would not be published. There was no written submission process for the reviews of the students with disability or ELP loadings.

The feedback from the face-to-face consultations and written submissions informed advice provided to the Education Council in December 2014.

The review of indexation has not been completed. The 2014-15 and 2015-16 Budgets included indicative growth of CPI (2.5 per cent) and enrolments to be applied from 2018. The Government has stated that school funding beyond 2018 is subject to formal negotiations with states and territories and the non-government sector. Indexation will be considered in this context.