

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000559

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing.

ACARA: My School aggregated financial data

Question

Referring to My School aggregated financial data, please provide total and per student funding for 2013 for each state and territory:

- a. broken down by sector (government, Catholic and independent);
- b. by source of funds (Australian Government, state/territory government, private (broken down by fees and other private sources));
- c. disaggregate recurrent and capital funding

Please also provide this information for each school.

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has provided the following response.

The attached spreadsheet contains the total and per student funding for 2013 by state/territory and sector split by funding source.

Capital expenditure involves the purchasing or improving of assets including equipment, property or buildings. Capital expenditure supports infrastructure used over many years and can change significantly from year to year, depending on the capital projects taking place at a particular school. The financial resources available to schools will influence school location, profile, programs, operations as well as the level of enrolments.

Interpreting capital expenditure data on a "per student" basis for a particular year can be misleading. It implies that all capital expenditure is consumed and utilised over one year. Capital expenditure is consumed and utilised over a longer period of time, benefitting students over many years rather than students enrolled in a given calendar year.

For these reasons, despite past practice, we believe it prudent and fair to provide only the total capital expenditure on the attached spreadsheet.

All of this information is sourced from the datasets created from the *My School* collections, and is currently available on the *My School* website.