

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000630

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked on 01 June 2017, Proof Hansard page 27

Impact of legislation not passing

Question

Mr Cook: In terms of the legislation, the obligation is in relation to the National Education Agreement, not the National Education Reform Agreement. The obligation for the minister under the current act for those states legislatively is to determine a level of indexation for them. However, the government indicated that for the first four years they would treat non-participating states as if they are participating. In terms of the legislation, we treat schools such as Queensland, or the system such as Queensland, for the first four years as if they are below the SRS and they receive 4.3 per cent indexation.

...

Senator Birmingham: But if the Senate disallows, then the result for the next year—

Mr Cook: Will basically be what they received in the previous year.

Senator Birmingham: So then there is zero indexation.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So the status quo is just based on the last financial year's commitment. You have said 5.2 and then 5.1 in relation to overall growth of the public school sector under your package. How much more in dollar terms is that over the next 10 years?

Dr Bruniges: Funding for government schools will grow by 94.1 per cent, with the total government recurrent funding for government schools of \$107.6 billion between 2017 and 2027.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And just in the first four years? Do you have that figure?

Mr Cook: It would be \$32.6 billion for the government sector.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In total?

Mr Cook: In total from 2018 to 2021.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you got that split out to say how much extra that is?

Mr Cook: Of the \$18.6 billion that was announced by the government, which is the additional funding compared to last year's budget, \$1.5 billion is for the government sector over the first four years and \$11.9 billion of the \$18.6 billion is to the government sector over a 10-year period.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So that is in comparison to last year's budget. Do you have the figures to compare it to what you would be committed to under the Australian Education Act?

Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, I do not have that with me. I can take it on notice.

Answer

This question relates to consideration of contingency options in the event that the passage of legislation did not occur. However, the Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017 passed Parliament on 23 June 2017 and received Royal Assent on 27 June 2017.