

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

#### Outcome: Schools and Youth

#### Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000689

Senator Collins, Jacinta asked on 01 June 2017, Proof Hansard page 118–119

#### *Schooling resource standard*

#### Question

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: The proportion of the SRS that the capacity-to-contribute arrangements will assume are made for my local primary school would, according to the formula that was in place prior to Gonski 2—we are talking about a school with an SES of 111 and the other details that you can find I am sure My School that are relevant to this consideration—would be \$1,699. What I am trying to understand is: Under the new capacity-to-contribute arrangements it is suggested that those fees, with the assumptions that are made within the model and the change to the capacity-to-contribute curve, would be \$3,979. I know all the issues about assumptions and the like. I am seriously not trying to get into the scaremongering about fees, because I think that is having an adverse impact on schools as well, but I am trying to understand the shift in the model with the new capacity-to-contribute curve and applying that to a particular school's data, understanding that it is part of a system and other distributions may be able to occur et cetera. But the model itself seems to suggest that for this school with an SES of 111 the existing capacity-to-contribute estimate, which amounts, in my understanding, to \$1,699, would shift to \$3,979, which would be an increase of \$2,280. Can you tell me if that is wrong? You might need to do that on notice.

Mr Cook: In terms of the way the model operates, it talks about total public funding.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I understand.

Mr Cook: As I said, fees do not come into the calculation of total public funding. The schooling resource standard is total public funding. It is not fees.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Yes.

Mr Cook: So the Commonwealth contribution to the schooling resource standard will be 80 per cent by 2027. I am happy to take it on notice but I cannot really respond to the question that you have asked.

....

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: If you follow that through, the shift in the capacity to contribute curve for this particular school—it is suggested, and I am asking you to look at it—means a nominal assumption, as was recommended by Gonski, of looking at parents making a contribution for the schooling of their children, if they are choosing to place them in a non-government school. The model will now assume a higher contribution for schools between a particular SES range. For this school, my understanding of how that fleshes out is that the model would currently expect \$1,699, and under the new capacity to contribute arrangements, that would increase to \$3,979.

Mr Cook: I am happy to take that on notice

#### Answer

A primary school student attending a non-government school with a socioeconomic status (SES) score of 111 would have a notional capacity to contribute in 2017 of:

- \$3,052 under the provisions of the *Australian Education Act 2013* currently in operation.
- \$3,879 under the new primary capacity to contribute curve to operate from 1 January 2018.

Note: The 2017 Schooling Resource Standard funding amount for a primary student is \$10,310.