

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000778

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Schools funding communications

Question

- Please provide a full list of all communication (including consultations, meetings, briefings, phone conversations, emails and similar) about the government's new schools funding proposal between the Minister's office or the department (including times, dates, names, and what was discussed) and independent schools, independent school organisations, representatives, or peak groups. Please provide information from 8 July 2016 to present.
- Please provide a full list of all communication (including consultations, meetings, briefings, phone conversations, emails and similar) about the government's new schools funding proposal between the Minister's office or the department (including times, dates, names, and what was discussed) and Catholic schools, Catholic school organisations, representatives, or peak groups. Please provide information from 8 July 2016 to present.
- Please provide a full list of all communication (including consultations, meetings, briefings, phone conversations, emails and similar) about the government's new schools funding proposal between the Minister's office or the department (including times, dates, names, and what was discussed) and state governments, public schools, public school organisations, representatives, or peak groups. Please provide information from 8 July 2016 to present.
- Please provide a full list of all communication (including consultations, meetings, briefings, phone conversations, emails and similar) about the government's new schools funding proposal between the Minister's office or the department (including times, dates, names, and what was discussed) and school parent organisations, representatives, or peak groups. Please provide information from 8 July 2016 to present.

Answer

The Minister, the Minister's office and departmental officials communicate with schools stakeholders regularly about a wide range of matters relating to the portfolio, including Commonwealth schools funding and reform.

Significant communications with a focus on school funding arrangements have included:

- 13 multilateral meetings between the Commonwealth and states and territories since July 2016, via the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council, the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee (AESOC) and the Schools Policy Group (SPG). SPG includes representatives from the non-government sector.
 - At the September 2016 Education Council meeting the Minister sought feedback from states and territories on reform priorities and how funding could be better distributed to meet the Commonwealth's principles for future funding arrangements. This was followed by a letter to all states and territories from the Minister on 19 October 2016.

- At the December 2016 Education Council meeting the Minister sought feedback from states and territories on a range of issues, including:
 - the Schooling Resource Standard
 - transition arrangements
 - maintenance of effort requirements as outlined in the *Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes* policy in May 2016.
- In May 2017 Education Council discussed the Government's proposed new school funding arrangements and implementation issues.
- Two rounds of bilateral meetings between Commonwealth and state and territory senior officials and representatives from the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) in January–February 2017 and again in May 2017.
 - In the first round of bilateral consultations, senior officials discussed a range of matters including ways in which funding arrangements and arrangements for national reforms could be improved.
 - In the second round of bilateral consultations, senior officials sought feedback on the Australian Government's proposed funding arrangements, including potential impacts for jurisdictions.
- Presentations on school funding to the COAG Senior Officials Meetings and Deputy Senior Officials Meetings in the lead-up to and after the 2 May 2017 *Quality Schools* package announcement.