

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

#### Outcome: Schools and Youth

#### Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000785

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

#### *Schools funding*

#### Question

How much money does the removal of the system weighted average save, in total dollars each year over the forward estimates?

#### Answer

Compared to calculating funding consistently for all schools in line with the amended *Australian Education Act 2013*, continuing system weighted average socioeconomic status (SES) scores would have an additional cost of \$328.8 million over the forward estimates, as below.

2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
\$19.2 m	\$59.0 m	\$101.9 m	\$148.7 m

*Note: as at the 2017–18 Budget, with model settings as per the amended Australian Education Act 2013.*

For the majority of systems, continuing system weighted average scores would increase their Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) and, as a result, their funding. Therefore this estimate includes the impact of a transition to a higher SRS. The additional cost increases each year as systems are transitioned gradually to higher funding.

Under previous arrangements, ACT Catholic schools received a more generous SES score (equivalent to the national average) than their system weighted score to account for 'hidden disadvantage.' This estimate is calculated for ACT Catholic schools using this system weighted score.

Provision has been made to provide one additional year of funding according to the system weighted average scores in 2018, while the new National Schools Resourcing Board reviews the existing SES measure and the parental capacity to contribute settings for non-government schools.