

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0201_14

Senator O'Neill asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 81

Question

Funding for Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory – breakdown on average per student, per school basis

Senator O'NEILL: If I asked you how much federal funding will be offered to the Queensland government for the 2014 school year, could you provide me with some detail about that, a breakdown on average per student, per school basis? Senator Payne: I cannot add anything but I will leave it to the officers if they have any further information. Mr Cook: We would have to take that level of information on notice. Senator O'NEILL: What was it under the original offer? Ms Paul: We should take that on notice. It all gets updated with enrolment data and that sort of thing too so it is probably best for us take it on notice. Mr Cook has made clear this government's commitment, which is that the funding envelope moving into 2014 is the same funding envelope. We are proceeding on that basis but we are still in the technical process of updating enrolment data and so on. It would probably be best if we took it on notice to give you the answer to your question. Senator O'NEILL: The conversations that are happening with the Queensland government and indeed with other state jurisdictions are not discussing or changing any of the numerical amounts of funding? Ms Paul: I have not been in those discussions so naturally we cannot comment about what ministers might say. Senator O'NEILL: You have been advised of that? Ms Paul: I have not been advised of that but I understand that discussions between ministers have happened and that is a positive thing. The government's commitment is clear in terms of the funding envelope being the same funding envelope. Senator O'NEILL: So meetings have been happening, discussions have been happening; it has not been about money but about other things with regard to— Ms Paul: I did not say that. I said it could well have been about money. I imagine it probably was but I was not there so it is not quite right for me to speculate on what was discussed. Senator O'NEILL: If it was about money, why would there be uncertainty about that? If you are telling me that they will be getting exactly what they are getting before, why would money be being discussed? Senator Payne: I think you will find that the states and territories always enthusiastically discuss money with the Commonwealth, in my experience anyway. Senator O'NEILL: I know they were enthusiastic when we were in; I do not know how enthusiastic they will be after the cuts. Could you provide also for WA and the Northern Territory, on notice as it would seem, a clear breakdown of the federal funding being offered to those states, with an indication of the average per student and per school amounts?

Answer

The table below shows the projected amount of Commonwealth funding for Queensland, Western Australian and Northern Territory government schools on a total, per school and per student basis for the 2014 calendar year.

Projected Commonwealth funding for Government schools 2014			
State	Total (\$millions)	Per student (\$)	Per school (\$)
QLD	1046.1	2026	847 062
WA	490.3	1919	636 730
NT	127.7	4318	829 183

Note that final figures will be dependent on actual student and school characteristics which will be updated during 2014.