

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0558_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

School funding

With reference to the graph on p7 of the Budget Overview that shows reductions in school funding over the next 10 years, statements by treasury at budget estimates that approximately \$30 billion in saving will be made from schools funding over the next decade, and the calculations by the Queensland Government – tabled in the Committee – which show cuts to federal school funding in Queensland of \$6 billion over the next decade. Can the Department provide the following: a. Year-by-year breakdowns of the cuts by state and school sector to 2024-25, as has been calculated by the Queensland Department? b. Can you also provide this information by electorate? c. Are you able to provide it on a school by school basis? d. An indication as to the impact of these cuts in real terms, taking into account the rising cost of providing educator services? This could be expressed as a percentage real change in school funding for each year over the next decade. e. In relation to the Department's refusal to provide answers to these questions in the course of the estimates hearing, how is it possible for the Budget Overview to show savings in school funding beyond the forward estimates but it is impossible for the Education Department to provide any information about how these savings have been calculated or their impact? (If consultation with other agencies is required to provide an answer to this question – please undertake that consultation)

Answer

The 2014-15 Budget did not cut schools funding. Commonwealth funding for Queensland schools over the forward estimates period will total approximately \$14.3 billion. This represents a growth in funding of approximately 47 per cent over this period.

The Queensland Government has undertaken its own modelling to determine the funding that might be attributable to that jurisdiction.

The Government has indicated that Commonwealth recurrent schools funding beyond 2018 by state and sector will be negotiated with states and territories and non-government education authorities to determine schools funding distribution from 2018. As a result there is no basis on which calculations can be made.

Estimates have been calculated based on an indexation of 2.5 per cent plus enrolment growth applied to total recurrent schools funding. Treasury provided additional information of this calculation over the period 2017-18 to 2024-25 in QoN BET 41. In QoN BET 49, Treasury confirmed that disaggregation of schools funding between states and territories was not published in the previous Budget beyond 2016-17.