

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000855

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing.

Australian Education Act

Question

Has the Department prepared or sought any legal opinion on whether it is necessary to change the Australian Education Act to end 'Gonski' funding after 2017, or what can be done without changing the Act?

- Has this advice been prepared within the department?
- Has the Department sought an opinion external to the Department?
- Has advice been provided to the Minister?

Section 127 of the *Australian Education Act* requires the Minister to provide a report on financial assistance provided under the Act – has there been a report yet?

- If not, when will the next report be published?

Answer

The department has prepared advice internally and sought external advice on the operation of the Australian Education Act post 2017 and has provided advice to the Minister in relation to this matter.

The information required under section 127 of the Act has been included in the Department of Education and Training Annual report. The 2014–15 annual report covers the 2014 year and the 2015–16 annual report covers the 2015 year.