

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.1 – Funding for schools

#### **DEST Question No. E829\_04 & E830\_04**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

The 2003 Budget includes the following estimates for non-government schools:

2003-04	\$4,373m
2004-05	\$4,712m
2005-06	\$5,062m
2006-07	\$5,425m

(Budget Paper No. 1 2003, Table 7).

1. Please provide information about the assumptions underpinning these estimates, especially for general recurrent grants to non-government schools.
2. What is the total general recurrent funding included in these figures?
3. What assumptions about changes to SES scores and funding were made:
  - for independent schools that have SES scores?
  - For 'funding maintained' schools?
  - For Catholic systems, including the ACT?
4. What increases in AGSRC were assumed, for each of the calendar years: 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007.
5. Please provide a break-down of the assumed elements of the estimated increase in general recurrent grants:
  - Enrolments (primary and secondary; independent and Catholic systems)
  - AGSRC (see above)
  - Changes in SES funding (see above)
  - Any other factors.
6. Can the Department estimate the assumed increases by individual schools and systems, as an extension to E305A and B (see also separate question on notice for updated figures); as per the attached template
  - If yes: take on notice, but provide within 4 weeks?
  - If no: why not? Surely the overall estimates at least implicitly assumed extension of 2004 funding with indexation? It would also be helpful to know assumed enrolment changes by school. To do the estimates, the Department would have to factor in enrolment growth over the 43 funding categories. Pro rata? Of weighted to particular SES scores? And sectors (independent and Catholic)?

**Answer:**

*Non-government schools funding: assumptions underpinning 2003-04 Budget estimates*

1., 3.,4., 5. The figures referred to relate to non-government schools funding under the *States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act 2000* (the SGA) and *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* (the IEA). Assumptions are made for supplementation and enrolment growth, as appropriate, for programmes funded under these Acts.

Funding under the IEA is supplemented using Wage Cost Index No. 1. Under the SGA, General Recurrent Grants are based on the Average Government School Recurrent Cost (AGSRC) amounts for primary and secondary students; targeted programmes are supplemented in accordance with the AGSRC Index; and capital grants are supplemented in accordance with the Building Price Index. The estimates for these parameters cannot be publicly released.

Enrolment projections are applied to estimates for per capita programmes under the SGA. These include General Recurrent Grants, an element of Strategic Assistance for Improving Student Outcomes and ESL New Arrivals estimates. Enrolment projections included in the figures referred to are at Attachment A.

The estimates for general recurrent grants referred to do not include any changes to SES scores or funding. The estimates reflect SES scores based on 1996 census data and funding policy for the 2001-2004 quadrennium.

2. As at the 2003-04 Budget, the estimated general recurrent grants included in the figures referred to is as follows:

2003-04: \$4.0 billion

2004-05: \$4.4 billion

2005-06: \$4.7 billion

2006-07: \$5.0 billion

6. The information requested has been published on the internet. The address is <http://schoolgrg.dest.gov.au/Help/SESInfo/funding2003-2008.pdf>

**Enrolment Projections for non-government programmes**

As at 2003-04 Budget

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>General Recurrent Grants</b>				
Independent				
Primary	187,814	188,334	188,548	188,061
Secondary	264,962	271,828	278,072	283,827
Catholic systemic				
Primary	365,609	366,406	366,673	365,633
Secondary	254,288	260,683	266,416	271,605
<b>Strategic Assistance</b>	21,571	21,864	22,115	22,304
<b>ESL New Arrivals</b>	1,184	1,184	1,184	1,184