

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. E837_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Please confirm that the EBA still applies. And that, since 2001, any 'adjustments' to Federal funding of government schools is 'returned' to the state or territory subject to application for grants the 'foster science, mathematics and technology skills... under *Backing Australia's Ability* program' (from program guidelines).

If so, please provide the following information:

- EBA amounts by state and territory for each of the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 (estimate)
- Outline of the initiatives funded
 - And where are the details of these initiatives reported?

Answer:

Enrolment Benchmark Adjustment (EBA)

In the 2001-02 Budget innovation package, *Backing Australia's Ability*, the Australian Government decided to continue the EBA mechanism but to allow States that triggered the EBA to retain their liability to achieve better scientific, mathematical and technological skills and innovation in their government schools under the *Fostering Science, Mathematics and Innovation in Government Schools* initiative (the initiative). In order to retain their EBA liability, States that trigger the EBA must submit a strategic plan for the use of their EBA liability to the Minister for Education, Science and Training for his approval.

Year	EBA LIABILITY (\$m)								
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
2000 (with effect in 2001-02)	25.64	0.26	4.64	1.61	0.00	-	-	-	32.15
2001 (with effect in 2003)	39.40	0.00	4.83	3.27	0.00	-	-	-	47.50
2002 (with effect in 2004)	65.21	3.37	10.62	9.21	4.81	-	-	-	93.22

An outline of activities funded under the initiative is at [Attachment A](#). Details of the initiatives funded by the EBA liabilities are reported in the Commonwealth Government's Innovation Report.

Fostering Science, Mathematics and Innovation in Government Schools

New South Wales

To date, funding is combined with State resources to expand teacher support through direct professional development in numeracy and technology. Significant professional support is also provided for teachers and schools through dedicated consultants and advisors in the areas of science and technology.

Queensland

To date, funding is applied:

- To establish eight school-based centres of excellence in science, mathematics, and information technology throughout Queensland in conjunction with State-wide programmes to expand student and teacher awareness of science, mathematics and technology; and
- to review of science education in Queensland in order to construct policy initiatives that will enhance student learning and opportunities through the revitalisation of the nature of science education provided to students in the future.

Western Australia

Initiatives to date in Western Australia include:

- A multi-faceted strategy for kindergarten to Year 7 teachers and students focusing on developing innovation sites that exemplify integrated learning approaches based around technological activities was implemented;
- Professional development programme for teachers of secondary students to enable them to more effectively undertake their curriculum leadership role and take advantage of the increased opportunities to support the development of innovative teaching programmes afforded by the curriculum framework;
- Professional development for teachers of mathematics
- Support for teachers to research, explore and implement the use of information and communication technologies across the curriculum, but predominantly in mathematics, science and technology; and
- A focus on Pedagogy aimed at supporting teachers to explore and implement appropriate outcomes-focused pedagogies, predominantly in mathematics, science and technology.

Victoria

The *Koori Middle Years Numeracy Project* in 2001 was initiated to improve numeracy for Indigenous students in the middle years, with a focus on students in Years 5 and 5 before they start secondary school.