

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. E858_04

Senator Carr provided in writing on 18 February 2004.

Question:

Minister Nelson's statement "Taking schools to the next level"

1. Par.4 of this statement mentions an analysis of private school fees. Has such an analysis been carried out by DEST, or elsewhere in the Government? What form did this analysis take?

Is it available? Please provide a copy of any associated report.

2. On p.3 of this paper, there is a comment about the extent to which the AGSRC has increased government schools' funding since 1996. How much has it increased non-government schools' funding in the same period?

Please provide the dollar amounts for (1) government and (2) non-government schools, including all forms of indexation for all programs, since 1996.

Answer:

1. DEST analyses available data regarding schools financing, including the impact of fees in Australia. Information about funding from private sources is included in the annual National Report on Schooling (ANR).

2. The 60 per cent increase (\$0.9 billion) in total direct Australian Government funding to government schools and school students since 1996 referred to in Minister Nelson's statement, 'Taking Schools to the Next Level', includes funding changes as a result of enrolment change, supplementation and new policy. The comparable increase in total direct Australian Government funding to non-government schools and school students since 1996 is 119 per cent (\$2.4 billion).