

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2011-2012

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1193_12

Senator Mason asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 44

Question

Average cost for each student in school

Senator MASON: You may need to take this on notice but you will understand where I am heading, I am sure. How much does it cost taxpayers on average for each student in a public school—either on average or indeed maybe the average cost in each state and territory, in each jurisdiction? How much does it cost taxpayers to educate a student in a public school in each of the jurisdictions, in each state or territory? Ms Paul: The average cost of a student in a government school is measured. It is measured through the AGSRC, which is their current indexation mechanism. We can give that to you. We probably would have to take it on notice, but we can give it to you state by state for primary and secondary students. Senator MASON: Clearly this might be more difficult because the disparity is significant, but how much does it cost taxpayers for each student in independent or Catholic schools? Ms Paul: Sure. Senator MASON: Clearly they will vary enormously but if even the aggregate cost per jurisdiction—does that make sense?—could be provided to the committee that would be very useful. Ms Paul: Sure.

Answer

Australian, State and Territory government recurrent expenditure on school education is set out in the Report on Government Services (ROGS) published by the Productivity Commission.

The recurrent expenditure per full-time equivalent student (FTE) is published in the 2012 ROGS for government schools by primary and secondary schools. The latest available data is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: 2009-10 Australian, State and Territory government recurrent expenditure per student, Government Schools (\$ per FTE student)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Primary	13,042	11,702	13,274	15,697	13,225	13,283	16,713	19,617	13,240
Secondary	15,638	14,793	15,699	22,171	15,057	15,475	19,573	23,646	16,132
Total	14,123	13,001	14,148	17,854	13,909	14,251	18,003	21,087	14,380

Source: Report on Government Services 2012, Table 4A.8

The recurrent expenditure per FTE in non-government schools is published at the aggregate State and Territory level. Information is not disaggregated to the level of Independent or Catholic schools. The latest available data is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: 2009-10 Australian, State and Territory government recurrent expenditure per student, Non-Government Schools (\$ per FTE student)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Total	7,510	6,967	7,673	7,874	7,121	7,880	6,602	10,962	7,427

Source: Report on Government Services 2012, Table 4A.9