

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0243_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

School Funding

Five days after announcing a one-year, \$230 million funding offer for Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia in relation to school funding, the Government announced another offer; this time for \$1.2 billion over four years.

- a) What changed between 27 November and 2 December?
- b) On what dates was advice requested by the Minister, the Minister's Office, the Prime Minister, the PMO or PMC about making changes to the funding offer announced on 27 November?
- c) On what date was the Department informed of the change in Government policy? At what time?
- d) Can the Department confirm that the decision to offer four years of funding was only made on the evening of 1 December, after a meeting of the Prime Minister, the Minister, the Treasurer, and the Foreign Minister. The Government has not denied that this is the case. Is the Department aware that the meeting took place? When were you informed that it had been scheduled?
- e) Did the Department prepare any advice for the meeting, including costings and options?
- f) Were any officials from the Department present at the meeting?
- g) After this meeting, was the Department asked by the Education Minister or the Prime Minister's office to prepare for an announcement or media event?

Answer

The budget deliberations of the Cabinet and associated correspondence and briefings are held in confidence to the government.