

**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. ED0391\_14**

**Senator Wright provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Parent Engagement***

1. What percentage of the Department of Education's budget is spent on parental engagement programs, at present? 2. The federal government has listed parental engagement as one of its main focuses, under its Students First framework. What programs will the government fund, in order to promote this? a. Will any of these programs focus on what parents can do beyond involvement in school boards and similar roles to be actively involved in their child's learning?

**Answer**

1. In 2013-14, the Department of Education allocated \$831,000 (GST exclusive) to support parental engagement activities.

This funding was directed to the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO), Australian Parents Council (APC), the Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) and the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau (the Bureau) to support work at a national level to build effective partnerships between schools, families and the broader community and improve students' learning experiences and outcomes.

- ACSSO represents the interests of parents and their school-aged children attending government schools.
- APC represents parents and their school-aged children attending non-government schools.
- ICPA represents families living in isolated areas and their school-aged children.
- The Bureau is jointly managed by ACSSO and APC. It provides advice, research, and other resources for use by education authorities, principals, teachers, parents and others. Information is published on the Bureau's website at [www.family-school.org.au](http://www.family-school.org.au).

In addition, a total of over \$100 million (since 2009) is being directed to provision of the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY). This program is designed to empower parents and carers to be their child's first teacher and to create a positive learning environment to prepare their child for school. It is targeted to disadvantaged communities. On top of the current 50 locations, HIPPY is set to expand to an additional 50 locations with an emphasis

on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities — 25 of the new 50 locations are commencing delivery in 2014 and the remaining 25 new locations are commencing in 2015.

2. Future funding decisions are a matter for the Government.