

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome **2**

DEEWR Question No. EW 826_09

Senator Milne provided in writing.

Question

For the year 2007 and 2008 to the extent there is data available, please provide the following in respect of Tintern Anglican Girls' Grammar School in Ringwood East, Victoria and the associated Southwood Boys' Grammar School.

- (a) the number of:
 - (i) female primary enrolments;
 - (ii) female secondary enrolments;
 - (iii) male primary enrolments; and
 - (iv) male secondary enrolments
- (b) per capita funding in respect of:
 - (i) female primary enrolments;
 - (ii) female secondary enrolments;
 - (iii) male primary enrolments; and
 - (iv) male secondary enrolments
- (c) the number of students who were below the national benchmark for literacy or numeracy for:
 - (i) female primary enrolments;
 - (ii) female secondary enrolments;
 - (iii) male primary enrolments;
 - (iv) male secondary enrolments
- (d) Does the commonwealth apply any checks on the enrolment figures submitted by schools for funding purposes?
- (e) Is it possible for a school to receive funding for students that are not enrolled in the school?
- (f) Are full fee paying overseas students counted for purposes of commonwealth funding per student
- (g) What are the current statutory reporting requirements for non-government schools receiving commonwealth funding?
- (h) Does the Commonwealth ensure schools have complied with these requirements?
- (i) What are the consequences for a school that does not meet these requirements?
- (j) Does the commonwealth audit schools?
- (k) Where a school reports a dramatic increase in the school meeting literacy and numeracy benchmarks reported, does the government follow up these reported scores to find out why there was such a dramatic improvement?

Answer

(a) funded enrolments	2007	2008
<i>Tintern:</i>		
(i) female primary	210	183
(ii) female secondary	668	601
(iii) male primary	0	0
(iv) male secondary	23	23

funded enrolments	2007	2008
<i>Southwood:</i>		
(i) female primary	0	0
(ii) female secondary	0	0
(iii) male primary	130	121
(iv) male secondary	294	296

(b) per capita general recurrent grants funding (both schools)

	2007	2008
(i) female primary	\$2757	\$2912
(ii) female secondary	\$3521	\$3643
(iii) male primary	\$2757	\$2912
(iv) male secondary	\$3521	\$3643

- (c) The Commonwealth does not receive data on benchmark results for all schools at the individual school level. This information is however available from schools themselves.
- (d) Enrolment data submitted via the Census for both schools are subject to the IT system edits of the Department's *Census on the Internet* facility. Both schools have provided statutory declarations in support of the census data for both years. Additionally, upon lodgement of their census returns, both schools have had their Census data checked by Departmental staff and anomalies have been checked with the schools. Both schools are also included in the 2008 Census Post Enumeration Exercise whereby contractors compare the census data with school records.
- (e) Funding is only provided for students enrolled at the schools and who are receiving education from the schools.
- (f) No
- (g) Under the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004*, Commonwealth funding is provided to non-government schools that are not-for-profit, incorporated, have the power to run a school and that sign a Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth. Under the funding agreement, schools are required to annually provide the Census return, the Financial Questionnaire, a Financial Accountability certificate, a copy of the Auditor's Report to their financial statements and a Compliance Certificate.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) Failure to comply with the terms of the funding agreement can result in the suspension of funding, require the repayment of funding or require the termination of the funding agreement
- (j) The Department selects a sample of non-government schools to participate in the Census Post-Enumeration exercise and the same number for the Financial Questionnaire Verification exercise. Data provided in the Financial Questionnaire must be derived from audited financial statements and Audit Opinions are also provided to the Department. Census data for all non-government schools are verified by the Department at the time of lodgement.
- (k) No. Individual schools do not report this information to the Commonwealth.