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Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training

Secretary  
Dr Michele Bruniges AM

Committee Secretary  
Senate Education and Employment Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Tabled doc #: 5  
Tabled by: Senator Jacinta Collins  
Date: 31/05/18

Dear Secretary

I refer to the request dated 22 May 2018 by Senator Jacinta Collins, Senator for Victoria, for an updated response to the table provided in SQ17-001191.

I regret that the department is not able to provide an updated version of the table. The estimates provided in SQ17-001191 were based on point-in-time data, using assumptions that are no longer plausible. The current funding arrangements came into effect on 1 January 2018 and previous funding arrangements have now been superseded with the passage last year of an amended *Australian Education Act 2013*.

The estimates previously provided made a number of assumptions about the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA), which is no longer in effect. These included that:

- all states and territories are 'participating' – yet only three states signed the NERA and bilateral agreements to become participating;
- all states and territories met (and continue to meet) the state funding obligations of the NERA from 2014 to 2019 – which is not the case;
- previous indexation arrangements are maintained; and
- additional funding based on the above assumptions is provided for the life of the (NERA) agreement to 2019.

Clearly, these assumptions describe a hypothetical situation that is no longer possible, and to provide information beyond 2017 would mislead the Committee.

Yours sincerely

*Michele Bruniges*

Dr Michele Bruniges AM

30 May 2018

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