

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Social Policy Division

Question No: 302

Topic: Education

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. Has Treasury researched returns on investment from spending on education – in early childhood? Schools? Universities?
2. What does the current research say in this area, regarding returns from spending on school education for disadvantaged cohorts?
3. Can Treasury please provide a copy of their research about returns from spending on education, particularly in schools?
4. Has Treasury done any modelling on what returns Australian Government funding on disadvantaged schools would have for the Australian economy? And the impact not just on growth but on productivity and inequality?
5. What is Treasury's role in formulating advice about the Government's planned new school funding model from 2018 and 2019?
6. In formulating your advice did you provide the Government with any analysis about the impact of school spending on growth, productivity and inequality?
7. When, in 2014, the Government made the decision to cut \$30 billion from school education, so the vast majority of disadvantaged schools would not reach the recommended SRS funding level, did Treasury provide advice at the time about the impact on growth, productivity and inequality?

Answer:

The Treasury relies upon a range of research and evidence in considering expenditure on education, but has not produced its own research regarding returns on investment from spending on education.

The Treasury works with other Australian Government agencies, including the Department of Education and Training, on a range of education policy issues including schools funding.

The Treasury is not able to comment on the nature of our advice to the Government.