

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000202

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing Hansard page 26.

Revised payments for government and non-government schools

Question

In relation to the 2014-15 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook's revised payment estimates for government and non-government schools, "which are expected to increase by \$313 million in 2014-15 (\$878 million over four years" (p 47). Why is this? Please provide the revised enrolment projections over the forward estimates – and for any period beyond for which enrolment projections are available?

Answer

The figure of \$878 million is a subset of the total change between the 2014–15 Budget and 2014–15 MYEFO that amounts to \$891 million(*) for *Students First* funding.

The consequential changes in the Commonwealth share of base funding is a result of:

- government sector data for non-signatory states being incorporated
- changes to non-government schools including the establishment of new schools and extensions to new education year levels
- updates to enrolment data from the 2014 census data for non-government schools
- updates to student demographic data from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) for Disadvantage Language Background Other Than English (DLBOTE) and Socio-educational Advantage (SEA) data
- the finalisation of the 2013 old per student amount data for non-government schools
- updates to reflect the amendment to the *Australian Education Act 2013* regarding special schools and other technical adjustments
- further updates to SEA and DLBOTE data in July 2014.

The following table shows projections of the number of full-time equivalent students funded by the Australian Government by school level up to 2020.

Numbers of Australian Government funded full-time equivalent enrolments in Australian schools: 2015 to 2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	3,726,674	3,768,909	3,824,779	3,885,900	3,947,602	4,029,444

1. The projections are generated using a grade progression ratio methodology. This methodology assumes that the proportion of students progressing through each grade level from 2013 to 2014 will remain constant over the projection period.
2. The projections do not reflect such factors as the effects of future changes in education and immigration policy or changes in social and economic conditions (with the exception of Queensland and Western Australia where the inclusion of Year 7 into the secondary program has been taken into account).
3. Enrolments for the first grade (and in some states, the second grade) of schooling for each year of the projection period are calculated by assuming the numbers of students will increase in proportion to the growth of the under one year old population between the fifth and sixth years prior to the relevant projection year. The growth in the under one population is calculated from the ABS Estimated Resident Population series and from the ABS Population Projections for the later years. As such projections become less stable the longer the period of time from the source data.