

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000244

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

School funding

Question

With reference to this answer (see Table A) provided to the Senate Select Committee on school funding by the Department which shows the per cent of the SRS by state and sector that will be reached by the end of the 2017 school year – when the Commonwealth Government stops matching the Gonski funding:

Also with reference to information provided in QON EW007_14 (see Table B)

- a. Could the Department provide a version of this table (from EW007_14) that is broken down by state and sector? Like the one that was provided to the Select Committee? And to update it in line with the projections in MYEFO?
- b. Will the gap between relative per student levels of funding in each state and territory increase or decrease between 2013 and the end of 2017? Can the department provide a break-down of the per student levels of funding for each state and territory, broken down by Commonwealth and state share, and by school sector, for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?
- c. Between 2013 and the end of 2017 by what proportion will the average level of per student funding inequality between each state and territory, relative to each other state and territory, increase or decrease?
- d. What will the average base level of per student funding be in dollars (broken down to show state and Commonwealth share) be in 2017? Please provide a table that provides comparison information for 2013. Please also show the average level of funding taking into account base funding and loadings under the Australian Education Act.
- e. Can the department show the relative differences in per student school resourcing that will occur between states and sectors because the Gonski transition path is scheduled to stop at 4 years – compared to the relative differences that would occur for each state and territory if the six year funding transition path under the NERA was fully implemented?
- f. Follows from previous question - for instance (acknowledging some inconsistencies in the tables provided above), the consequence of stopping at four years is that Victoria Government Schools will fall further behind NSW and Tasmanian government schools, as well as Catholic and Independent schools. And South Australian Government schools will not see levels of resourcing change at all relative to the SRS.
 - In dollar terms, how much will the average government secondary student in NSW miss out on compared to Tasmania, because NSW will be six points behind in the SRS in 2017?
 - Can the Department provide a table showing the average per student funding difference, in dollars, between each state and territory, because of the variation in the proportion of the SRS that will be achieved by each jurisdiction by the end of 2017?
 - Can the department also provide a table showing the same average per student funding

difference broken down for secondary and primary school in each state and territory, and broken down by school sector?

Table A

Commonwealth - % of SRS, by state, by sector		
State	Sector	2017 %
NSW	G	87.63
NSW	C	92.68
NSW	I	100.28
VIC	G	82.39
VIC	C	95.20
VIC	I	94.22
QLD	G	N/A
QLD	C	96.25
QLD	I	95.56
SA	G	87.64
SA	C	89.25
SA	I	86.39
WA	G	N/A
WA	C	93.83
WA	I	91.80
TAS	G	93.91
TAS	C	87.28
TAS	I	87.92
ACT	G	113.27
ACT	C	96.29
ACT	I	157.24
NT	G	N/A
NT	C	83.30
NT	I	88.56

NOTE: QLD, WA and NT Government have been excluded from this analysis, as they were not signatories to the NERA.

Table B

State/sector	Proportion of SRS reached			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
NSW Government	84%	84%	85%	88%
VIC Government	78%	79%	80%	80%
SA Government	88%	88%	88%	88%
TAS Government	91%	92%	93%	94%
ACT Government	111%	111%	111%	110%
Catholic sector (signed states only)	90%	91%	92%	94%
Independent sector (signed states only)	95%	95%	96%	98%

Answer

a. The updated and expanded table at Table 1 is based on the data at the 2014–15 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) for participating jurisdictions.

b. Under a needs-based funding arrangement, different jurisdictions have different per student amounts as the level of need varies from school to school and by state or territory.

See Table 2.

c. See Table 2 for the differences in funding per student and Table 3 for the sector average Schooling Resource Standard amounts per student.

d. The average recurrent Commonwealth base funding in 2017 is estimated at \$3553 per student as at the 2014–15 MYEFO.

The average per student funding level (including loadings) in 2017 is estimated to be \$4611 from the Commonwealth Government as at 2014–15 MYEFO.

The department cannot provide equivalent figures for states and territories as that funding is a matter for those jurisdictions.

2013 base level data is not available as there are no comparable figures for that year.

e. See Table 2.

Funding beyond 2017 for all jurisdictions and sectors is the subject of future negotiation with states, territories and the non-government sector.

f. The department is not able to provide primary or secondary average per student amounts as the funding model operates on a per student funding basis at the school level, including combined schools which have both primary and secondary enrolments.

See Table 2.

Answer Attachment

The following tables (1 to 3) form the basis of the answers the department is able to provide.

**Table 1 – Estimated Total Public Funding proportion of SRS –
as at 2014–15 MYEFO⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾**

State	Sector	2014 % SRS	2015 % SRS	2016 % SRS	2017 % SRS
NSW	G	85.5	86.1	86.8	89.1
NSW	C	91.9	92.9	93.9	95.5
NSW	I	98.1	98.9	99.6	101.1 ⁽⁴⁾
VIC	G	80.4	81.1	81.8	82.3
VIC	C	92.2	93.2	94.5	95.5
VIC	I	91.3	92.4	93.8	94.8
SA	G	88.3	88.0	88.1	88.1
SA	C	88.0	88.7	89.5	90.3
SA	I	85.2	85.8	86.7	87.4
TAS	G	92.4	93.1	93.9	94.8
TAS	C	83.9	86.1	88.3	90.4
TAS	I	79.8	82.4	85.1	87.6
ACT	G	114.3	113.6	113.0	112.3
ACT	C	90.4	92.8	94.9	96.8
ACT	I	155.6	154.9	154.2	153.4

Notes:

- (1) Based on average per student amounts per sector (see tables 2 and 3).
- (2) Total public funding data is not available for jurisdictions that have not signed up to the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA).
- (3) For signatories to NERA the table assumes those jurisdictions mirror funding as set out under the *Australian Education Act 2013*. However, states are able to allocate funding according to their own funding arrangements.
- (4) As the independent sector has approved authorities both above and below the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) the *average* per student amount for the sector may exceed 100 per cent of the SRS.

Table 2 – Estimated Total Public Funding amount – per student average per sector – as at 2014–15 MYEFO⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

State	Sector	2014 \$ ps	2015 \$ ps	2016 \$ ps	2017 \$ ps
NSW	G	12,034	12,522	13,066	13,890
NSW	C	9,900	10,366	10,848	11,421
NSW	I	8,286	8,646	9,019	9,484
VIC	G	11,104	11,576	12,083	12,569
VIC	C	9,718	10,167	10,674	11,157
VIC	I	7,449	7,809	8,209	8,587
SA	G	13,085	13,497	13,980	14,468
SA	C	9,705	10,116	10,570	11,027
SA	I	8,350	8,711	9,108	9,508
TAS	G	14,827	15,390	16,060	16,759
TAS	C	10,487	11,137	11,831	12,538
TAS	I	8,814	9,424	10,071	10,740
ACT	G	14,243	14,670	15,111	15,564
ACT	C	8,590	9,126	9,669	10,217
ACT	I	7,165	7,388	7,618	7,850

Table 3 – Estimated Total Public Funding SRS – per student average per sector – as at 2014–15 MYEFO⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

State	Sector	2014 \$ ps	2015 \$ ps	2016 \$ ps	2017 \$ ps
NSW	G	14,070	14,552	15,057	15,584
NSW	C	10,775	11,158	11,555	11,964
NSW	I	8,443	8,743	9,054	9,377
VIC	G	13,811	14,279	14,767	15,276
VIC	C	10,543	10,911	11,293	11,689
VIC	I	8,160	8,449	8,749	9,060
SA	G	14,825	15,341	15,873	16,427
SA	C	11,030	11,411	11,805	12,215
SA	I	9,804	10,149	10,506	10,876
TAS	G	16,040	16,538	17,096	17,670
TAS	C	12,495	12,936	13,401	13,873
TAS	I	11,042	11,431	11,836	12,256
ACT	G	12,461	12,910	13,375	13,857
ACT	C	9,499	9,838	10,189	10,553
ACT	I	4,605	4,770	4,940	5,116

Notes (tables 2 and 3):

- (1) These figures are *average* per student amounts per sector. In the case of the independent sector where approved authorities are both above and below the SRS, this average does not reflect any one approved authority.
- (2) Total public funding data is not available for jurisdictions that have not signed up to the NERA.
- (3) For signatories to NERA the table assumes those jurisdictions mirror funding as set out under the *Australian Education Act 2013*. However, states are able to allocate funding according to their own funding arrangements.