

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000246

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Also refer to previous Question No. ED0551_15

Senate Select Committee on school funding outlines of program of reviews

Question

I refer to the QON 5 from the Senate Select Committee on school funding which outlines a program of reviews the Minister was pursuing (see attachment):

- a. I note that all of the reviews except the Review of Indexation are scheduled to be completed by now. Is this the case? Why have they been delayed? Have the outcomes been provided to the Minister? Or his office?
- b. Does the Department have the review findings? Can these be provided or published? When will they be published?
- c. In each review please provide a full list of all consultation undertaken, the number of submissions received, provide the submission themselves and provide details of any reports or outcomes from these reviews?
- d. For each review, when will the outcome be made public?
- e. What is the expected outcome from these reviews? Are changes to policy or legislation being considered? When would they occur?

Answer

- a. The review of the English language proficiency (ELP) and low socio-economic status (SES) loadings has been completed. The outcomes of the review have been provided to the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education and Training, and the Education Council at its 12 December 2014 meeting.

The review of the students with disability loading has been finalised. The review consisted of consultation on the nationally consistent methodology for the students with disability loading. Consultations were completed in August 2014 and informed confidential advice to Minister Pyne and to the Education Council on 31 October 2014.

- b. Yes. The loadings consultation and submission processes honoured the Australian Government's commitment to engage the signatories of the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) in a review of the loadings. The signatories of the NERA are NSW, SA, Victoria, ACT, Tasmania and the Government. On this basis, it was not a public review and findings will not be published. To ensure a more genuinely national approach to funding, the Government broadened the consultation process to include other key stakeholders.

- c. The department facilitated face-to-face consultations on 13 August 2014 in Melbourne. Invitations were sent to 67 organisations across government, Catholic, Independent and other non-government sectors, including state and territory education departments and national peak bodies such as principals' associations, parent bodies and teacher unions. Organisations representing stakeholders involved in the provision of data for the loading and/or who may have been impacted by changes to the loading were also consulted. Representatives from 49 organisations took part in the consultation (a full list is at Attachment A).

The department received 26 written submissions for the low SES loading review. Stakeholders were invited to put in submissions on the basis that they would be only used for departmental purposes to inform the review and would not be published.

There was no written submission process for the ELP loading or students with disability reviews.

- d. The outcomes of the reviews will not be made public.
- e. The National Education Reform Agreement (the NERA) flagged a number of reviews including finalising the English Language Proficiency (ELP) loading and reviewing the Low Socio-economic Status (SES) loading. The finalisation of the ELP loading was to consider options for an appropriate measure to underpin the ELP loading. The review of the Low SES loading was to consider the best measure of educational disadvantage.

Organisations invited to participate in loading consultations

Note: Invitation letters were sent to a range of stakeholders with an interest in all loadings, including disability, English language proficiency and low SES.

State and territory governments
State and territory education departments (<i>all states and territories invited</i>)
National and state and territory non-government bodies
Independent Schools Council of Australia
National Catholic Education Commission
State and Territory Catholic Education Commissions/Offices (<i>all states and territories invited</i>)
State and Territory Associations of Independent Schools (<i>all states and territories invited</i>)
Christian Schools Australia
Australian Association of Christian Schools
Lutheran Education Australia Limited
Australian Council of Jewish Schools
National Independent Special Schools Association
Anglican Schools Australia
Adventist Schools Australia
Montessori Australia Foundation
Steiner Education Australia
Parents groups
Australian Council of State School Organisations
Australian Parents Council
Catholic School Parents Australia
Education unions and associations
Australian Education Union
Independent Education Union
Australian Association of Special Education
Children with Disability Australia
Australian Federation of Disabilities Organisations
Australasian Association of Distance Education Schools
Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA)
Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA)
AITSL - Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
Teach For Australia (TFA)
Australian College of Educators
Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL)
Principals groups
Australian Primary Principals Association
Australian Secondary Principals Association
Principals Australia Institute

Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia
Independent Primary School Heads of Australia
Catholic Secondary Principals Association
Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association
Australian Special Education Principals' Association
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Principals Association
Other
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority - ACARA
Education Services Australia - ESA
Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA)
The Refugee Council of Australia
Association for Language Assessment of Australia and New Zealand
Australian Refugee Advisory Association
Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
Network of Immigration and Refugee Women of Australia Inc