

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000060

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 116

School funding – Comparison of Budget and the Act

Question

Senator DASTYARI: Before you got here, Mr Cook, our discussion was around the fact that, for post-2018, the Australian Education Act says one thing and the budget papers say a different thing. That is a matter of fact. They are two documents that say something different for 2018. What is the material difference for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory between those two, between what the budget papers state and what the—

Mr Cook: I will take that on notice. We would have to calculate the total amounts at a state level to get those figures for you. I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator DASTYARI: I am not making that a hypothetical; I am asking a direct question.

Mr Cook: Sure. Happy to take it on notice. We will answer it that way, because it does involve some level of calculation. We will have to look at enrolment projections and a range of other things.

Answer

Estimated funding under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) and the indicative figures in the budget papers have been derived using projected data on a calendar year basis. Both are subject to change as a result of enrolments and student and school characteristics.

As at the 2015–16 MYEFO, the difference between estimated funding under the Act and the indicative budget figures for the 2018 calendar year for the requested states are as follows.

Estimated difference in funding between the Act and the indicative budget figures for 2018		\$m
NSW		431.6
VIC		61.0
QLD*		283.9
TAS		34.0
NT*		66.9

* Five jurisdictions, including Queensland and the NT, did not sign bilateral agreements with the previous government and are considered 'non-participating' under the Act. However, funding provided by the Australian Government is calculated in the same way regardless of whether a state or territory is considered to be participating or non-participating. The removal of this distinction means that Queensland and the NT are provided with more funding under the indicative budget than if funded under the previous arrangements. This required the Government to add \$1.2 billion to pay Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory according to the Act for 2014-2017.

As stated in the Budget papers, state allocations from the 2018 school year onwards are indicative only and final allocations are subject to formal negotiations between the Commonwealth, the states and the non-government sector.