

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000062**

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 117

***Consultation on school funding redistribution***

**Question**

Senator DASTYARI: At no point did you contact the states and have a discussion with the states about setting the SRS rate at 16.8 per cent?

Mr Cook: Since it's been in the budget papers, since 2014 I think, there has been no discussion about that—not with me.

Senator DASTYARI: Was there consultation with the states before arriving at that figure?

Mr Cook: Consultation, Senator? There was not a consultation with the states; it was a Commonwealth budget decision in relation to—

Senator DASTYARI: Sure, but Commonwealth budget decisions that have a material impact on states tend to be part of discussions—of people being told and matters discussed with them. I am asking if that happened.

Mr Cook: I am happy to look at my records but I do not have a recollection of any meeting that we have had. We have regular meetings with state officials and I cannot recall a discussion in relation to that. I am happy to take it on notice and correct it on notice if I am mistaken. I will go through meeting agendas for the last two years.

**Answer**

The Australian Government did not consult states and territories regarding the Budget presentation of Commonwealth recurrent funding for government schools from 2018.