

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome: Schools and Youth

#### Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000068

Senator McKim, Nick asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 128

*Also refer to previous hearing Question No. ED0323\_15, SQ15-000505*

#### ***Independent Public Schools***

##### **Question**

Senator McKIM: At the moment—despite the outcomes first, money last rhetoric that we are hearing from the minister on this—there are no outcomes that can be pointed to from the independent public schools investments—is that correct?

Mr Cook: I would have to take that on notice. That would be what is in the state and territory reports—I have not seen them myself but I know they are in the department—to see what comments states and territories have made around student outcomes.

Senator McKIM: Could you take that on notice and provide whatever you are able to in terms of outcomes.

...

Senator McKIM: Minister, are you able to point to any research that shows that the independent public schools give a system benefit in Australia?

Senator Birmingham: I will take that on notice.

##### **Answer**

##### **Outcomes**

The Australian Government has received one set of annual reports for the Independent Public Schools (IPS) initiative from all states and territories. In the first reporting period to end-April 2015, all states and territories achieved the deliverables specified in their Project Agreements at *Schedule 1, Section 6. Implementation Activities*. The second set of IPS annual reports is due to the Australian Government by 30 April 2016.

States and territories are responsible for evaluating the progress of their schools under the IPS initiative. Details about how states and territories plan to evaluate the impact of the initiative are available in their Project Agreements at *Schedule 1, Section 8. Evidence of Impact*.

The IPS Project Agreements are available at:

<http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/education.aspx>.

## Research

While it is too early in the implementation of the Australian Government's Independent Public Schools initiative to assess a system benefit, Western Australia has been operating its own Independent Public Schools programme since 2010.

The Melbourne Graduate School of Education's evaluation of the Western Australian Independent Public Schools programme in 2013 found that the IPS programme has, overall, had a positive effect on the public schools system by raising its profile and contributing to a sense of renewal and positive reform.