

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000223**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah provided in writing.

***Private schools - capacity to contribute rates***

**Question**

Could you please explain why the capacity to contribute rates for private schools are assessed according to the area-based measure of socio-economic status compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics rather than the socio-educational advantage (SEA) component of Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) developed by ACARA which is used to determine the SES funding loadings for public and private schools and which is based on individual family information?

**Answer**

Capacity to contribute measures the ability of parents and the school community to contribute to operating costs for non-government schools. It matches student home addresses with indirect area-based measures of household income, education and occupational status drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census.

The purpose of the low socio-economic status loading is to provide additional per student funding to address educational disadvantage in recognition of the strong correlation of parental educational attainment and occupation with National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy performance data. Developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, the SEA measure draws on information provided by parents on education, employment status and occupational status. It does not incorporate any measures of income.