

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No.ED0229_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Commonwealth Role in School funding

With respect to the Commonwealth's role in school funding: a. For how long has the Commonwealth been either directly or indirectly involved in school funding? b. In what years were major Commonwealth school funding policies implemented, and what were those policies?

Answer

Commonwealth involvement in funding school education began in 1964 when the Commonwealth provided capital grants to government and non-government secondary schools for science laboratories and equipment. In 1969 these grants were extended to secondary schools in both sectors for library facilities.

Major Commonwealth schools funding policies were introduced as follows:

- 1970 Commencement of Commonwealth recurrent funding for non-government schools at a flat rate per student.
- 1973 Commonwealth recurrent grants for non-government schools were based on 20 per cent of the cost of educating a child in a government school.
- 1974 Commencement of Commonwealth recurrent funding to government schools.
- 1985 Introduction of the Education Resources Index to assess the need of non-government schools for Commonwealth recurrent funding based on a school's resources.
- 2001 Introduction of the socioeconomic status (SES) funding model to assess the need of non-government schools for Commonwealth recurrent funding based on the capacity of the school community to support the school.
- 2014 Introduction of the Schooling Resource Standard as the basis for determining total public recurrent funding for government and non-government schools, including loadings to target disadvantage.