

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. ED0322_15

Senator Wright asked on 4 June 2014, Hansard page 109

Refers to previous Question No ED0440_14

Question

Independent Public Schools

Senator WRIGHT: At best, I would say that what I have been able to find in these reports is a hope that greater autonomy will lift student outcomes. But I am asking why the government is proceeding with this notion of independent public schools at a cost when there is apparently scant evidence. Is it just a pet notion of the minister's?
Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice on behalf of the minister, because that is a question that is appropriate for the government.

Answer

The Australian Government made a commitment during the 2013 election to provide \$70 million in funding over 2013–14 to 2016–17 to assist government schools in participating jurisdictions to become more autonomous and independent. The Independent Public Schools (IPS) initiative is a signature reform under the Government's *Students First* agenda. Participation in the initiative by states and territories is voluntary.

The Government is satisfied that national and international research emphasises the advantages of school autonomy as part of a comprehensive strategy for school and system improvement, and that the basis for supporting increased autonomy in government school systems to benefit students is sound.