

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. ED0330_15

Senator Collins asked on 4 June 2014, Hansard page 122

Question

CPI - price rises

Senator O'NEILL: One of the things on the next page indicates significant price rises in the quarter. One of them was secondary education, and they peeled it off. The actual CPI figure was six per cent. So the gap between the 2.5 is even higher. Ms Paul: On the other hand, the former index of AGSRC was dropping quite dramatically in recent years. It was estimated to come down to three per cent or lower. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: As I recall it, that was because state contributions were declining and that is what we were trying to address. Ms Paul: Yes. As we said earlier, for example, New South Wales has legislated that public sector wage increases cannot be above 2½ per cent. Those are the things that drive— Senator O'NEILL: It is just important that the gap is quite significant and the CPI, as part of this, figures pretty prominently, so we will have to watch it. Mr Cook: Some of that will be school fees, so it will not have to do with government funding or public funding. Some of that will be increasing schools fees, which is private expenditure. That is part of that figure as well. Senator O'NEILL: Yes, but it is still going to factor into the CPI. Ms Paul: I am just reiterating the point. There are different buckets in that number. CHAIR: We need to exert some discipline here, Mr Cook. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Sorry, Senator Back, could I just clarify that the department will have another look at those expenses on notice? Ms Paul: We will review that answer. Yes, we will.

Answer

CPI (Education)¹ includes all expenditure on primary, secondary and tertiary education. It also incorporates all expenditure on preschool services.

The ABS collects school fee data at the start of the school year which include charges associated with attending the school, but which are not for tuition although they must be paid. Examples of these fees are book fees, payments for school excursions, contributions to school building funds, camp fees and fees for swimming lessons (ABS 2011). These fees also contribute to the CPI (Education) movement.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue 6401.0, Tables 3 and 4, Series ID A2331427X

SOURCE:

ABS 2014, Catalogue 6401.0, accessed from:

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/meisubs.nsf/0/1C5B95AFDD5812B4CA257CC20014A1BC/\\$File/64010_mar%202014.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/meisubs.nsf/0/1C5B95AFDD5812B4CA257CC20014A1BC/$File/64010_mar%202014.pdf)

ABS 2011, Catalogue 6461.0, accessed from:

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/970952416B75A402CA257968000C70E5/\\$File/64610_2011.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/970952416B75A402CA257968000C70E5/$File/64610_2011.pdf)