

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000628

Senator Collins, Jacinta asked on 01 June 2017, Proof Hansard page 14-15

Federal Government funding allocation

Question

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It is relevant information, but it is certainly not generally presented in a format such as this. Federal government funding allocation: \$3.98 million; funding received, \$2.7 million; shortfall, \$1.26 million. I could run through each school's characterisation like that, but it was essentially the basis of this journalist's article. Is this material that the department has made available?

Mr Cook: I would have to take on notice what we responded to. That would have been a journalist's request. I am happy to take on notice what we actually provided to the journalist.

.....

Mr Cook: Again, we would respond to a journalist's request. The department's practice is not unilaterally to provide information to journalists unrequested. If a journalist has requested information from us then we will provide the information. I do not know the nature of the requests that the journalist made, off the top of my head; I am sorry. Whether they asked for SES scores, or whether they asked for—I do not know the details of that. I will need to take that on notice.

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Senator JACINTA COLLINS: So when you answer my question on notice—and that is why I was not sure to what extent some of this was cross portfolio—will you be able to tell me whether the request came from the minister's office or directly from the journalist?

Answer

The journalist requested information from the department on 22 May 2017. As the majority of the information requested was not in the public domain, the department prepared advice directing the journalist to the *My School* website for information on school funding levels in 2015 and to the department's website (<https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/2014-socio-economic-status-ses-scores>) for the latest information on socioeconomic status scores.