

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000824

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Review to achieve educational excellence in Australian Schools and QSQO policy

Question

In response to SQ17-000461 – and a number of other questions on notice – regarding the implementation of commitments in the Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes document, the Department did not provide updates on implementation but instead stated that: The Minister for Education and Training undertaking this consultation through a range of mechanisms, including the Education Council.

- Will consultations on the Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes reforms continue, or will they be superseded by the new Gonski review?
- If the Government has released a paper and consulted for over a year on schools reforms, why is an additional review now needed?
- When does the Government anticipate that school reforms will begin to be implemented?

Answer

The Australian Government continues to provide national leadership in driving evidence-based and quality-focused reforms to improve outcomes for all Australian students. The Government's reform agenda was outlined in the *Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes* policy released in May 2016.

Since its release, the Government has progressed a number of national reform priorities. This includes improving the quality of initial teacher education; supporting parent engagement in schooling; restoring the focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education; and expanding the successful Learning for Life program to support disadvantaged students. In addition, the Government is progressing its commitment to a national literacy and numeracy diagnostic check for Year 1 students.

The Government established the *Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools*, chaired by Mr David Gonski AC, to provide advice on how additional Commonwealth funding provided in the 2017–18 Budget should be invested to improve school performance and grow student achievement. The findings of the review will inform the development of a new national agreement between the Commonwealth and states and territories that will drive reforms to turn around declining student performance.

Education Council agreed on 18 May 2017 to undertake further work on school funding and reform principles to guide the development of a future agreement on schooling. Education Council will also consider the findings of the review in finalising an agreement.