

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0557_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Innovative mathematics resources for primary and secondary school teachers and students

In relation to the Government's announcement in October that it will invest \$7.4 million to provide innovative mathematics resources for primary and secondary school teachers and students, and invest \$3.5 million to provide greater exposure to computer coding across different year levels in Australian schools to expand the pool of ICT-skilled workers (see copy of announcement below):

- a. Can the Department advise whether those funding amounts (\$7.4 million and \$3.5 million) are per year figures, or over four years?
- b. Over how many years will these funds be expended?
- c. Were these funds contained in the 2014-15 Budget? If so, where in the Budget papers would one find these allocations? If not, when will these funds be appropriated?
- d. Will schools be eligible to receive funding under these programs in 2015? How many schools nationally will be eligible for these programs?
- e. What are the eligibility criteria for these programs? Will Primary and secondary schools be eligible for these programs? Will Government and non-government schools be eligible for these programs? How will funding amounts be determined?
- f. What kind of resources will be eligible to be funded under the \$7.4 million "mathematics resources for primary and secondary school teachers and students" initiative?
- g. In relation to the \$3.5 million greater exposure to computer coding" program, what does the government mean by "greater exposure to computer coding"?

Answer

- a. The amounts quoted are the total expenditure for the projects over four years.
- b. Funding for Mathematics by inquiry and Coding across the curriculum will be over four years (2014-15 to 2017-18).
- c. The funding will be published as part of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook and appropriated as part of the Additional Estimates process.
- d. Funding will not be made available directly to schools.
- e. As noted at (d), funding will not be provided directly to schools. It is anticipated that resources developed under the projects will be made available free of charge to all Australian primary and secondary schools.

- f. The *Mathematics by inquiry* project seeks to develop innovative and engaging mathematics resources, for both primary and secondary school students and teachers, which support an inquiry-based pedagogical approach to the teaching of mathematics.
- g. The *Coding across the curriculum* project will support the introduction of computer coding and computational thinking across different year levels in Australian schools. It will support teachers when they are implementing the Australian Curriculum, particularly the *Australian Curriculum: Technologies*.