

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. ED0648_15

Senator Wright asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 102

Question

Federal funding and the outlawing of corporal punishment in schools

Senator WRIGHT: As part of the answer, when I was asking you about that at that time, on behalf of the education minister you said: ... the Australian government does not support corporal punishment as an approach to student behaviour management in schools ... I think that is an accurate quote from the answer that you gave. Senator Payne: I am not in the habit of quoting myself, so— Senator WRIGHT: I can understand that, but I took that from the Hansard. Save the Children Australia has called on all federal education funding to be conditional upon states outlawing corporal punishment. Their rationale is that Australia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which outlaws all forms of physical and humiliating punishment of children. They say, 'Until corporal punishment is outlawed completely, Australia is failing its obligations under the treaty.' I am asking you whether or not this is something the federal government would consider—tying federal education funding to be conditional upon states outlawing corporal punishment. Senator Payne: Are you asking me? Senator WRIGHT: Yes. Senator Payne: I do not have any information that would assist me in shedding light on that for you. I will certainly take that on notice and seek advice from the minister.

Answer

The Australian Government is not making federal education funding conditional on states and territories outlawing corporal punishment in schools.