

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000694

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 116

Teacher workforce data

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Have you got any data on projected retirement rates for teachers and principals; and any data on workforce profiles?

Mr Misson: No. The department may hold some of that, but we have not taken a role in that area, no.

Ms Paul: I can see if we can find something.

Mr Cook: We have got a range of reports, and they are all online. I think we have got four different reports about workforce data—they are all available on the department's website. I am happy to provide them on notice, of course; I just do not have the stats with me at the moment. I have got average teaching age; percentage of early career teachers—that is the sort of information I have got on hand at the moment.

Senator O'NEILL: Perhaps if you can take on notice some more detailed questions around that—certainly the retirement rates for teachers and principals; current workforce profiles; and any forward planning that the department is doing around workforce—

Answer

Teacher workforce reports

In collaboration with states and territories, the Department of Education and Training has funded the collection of school teacher workforce data to inform teacher workforce issues and teacher workforce planning. The following four reports provide a range of administrative, survey and longitudinal data at a national level:

- *National Teaching Workforce Dataset – Data Analysis Report, 2014*
- *Staff in Australia's Schools 2013: Main Report on the Survey, 2014*
- *The Longitudinal Teacher Education and Workforce Study, Final Report, 2013*
- *OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey Results, 2014.*

All reports and supporting documents are available at: www.education.gov.au/school-teacher-workforce-data-reports

Retirement rates for teachers and principals

The Australian Government does not employ teachers or principals and does not have access to human resources information more likely to be kept by employers, including retirement rates.

The *Staff in Australia's Schools* survey of teachers and school leaders collects information on a range of topics including initial teacher education, employment status, job satisfaction, career paths and intentions, principal authority and teacher appraisal. The survey was most recently undertaken in 2013.

As part of the survey, principals from 951 primary and secondary schools identified 7866 primary and secondary teachers who had retired in the previous year. On average, this equated to 0.52 teachers for each primary school sampled and 1.24 teachers for each secondary school sampled. The survey also asks teachers and school leaders about their future career intentions.

The *Staff in Australia's Schools 2013* report is available at the Department of Education and Training website at www.education.gov.au/school-teacher-workforce-data-reports

Current workforce profiles

A range of workforce information on teachers and leaders is available in the national reports cited above, including demographic characteristics, employment status, qualifications, length of service, professional development and experiences of initial teacher education.

Workforce forward planning

The department does not undertake teacher workforce planning as this is more appropriately the role of employing authorities. However, the Government has invested in better national data, as cited above, to support teacher workforce planning by state and territory governments and non-government school authorities.