

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000895

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Students First Support Fund

Question

In relation to the Students First Support Fund:

- a. How much funding has been allocated in total and to each state and sector since the start of the 2014 school year?
- b. What projects have been delivered with this funding – please be specific?
- c. For each year of the forward estimates, how much funding has been allocated in total, and for each state/territory and sector?

Answer

- a. During negotiations on school funding arrangements in 2013, the former government agreed to provide this funding to Association of Independent Schools (AISs) and Catholic Education Commissions (CECs) as non-government representative bodies (NGRBs) under the *Australian Education Act 2013*. Attachment A details funding allocated to the Non-Government Representative Bodies each year.
- b. Attachment B details projects reported to the department by the Non-Government Representative Bodies.
- c. Refer to Attachment A.

Students First Support Fund – funding

Independent sector

The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$7,485,668	\$7,485,668	\$7,485,668	\$7,485,668	\$29,942,672

Independent Schools Victoria					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$5,444,491	\$5,444,491	\$5,444,491	\$5,444,491	\$21,777,964

Independent Schools Queensland					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$4,833,513	\$4,833,513	\$4,833,513	\$4,833,513	\$19,334,052

Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$3,207,197	\$3,207,197	\$3,207,197	\$3,207,197	\$12,828,788

Association of Independent Schools of South Australia					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$2,093,598	\$2,093,598	\$2,093,598	\$2,093,598	\$8,374,392

Independent Schools Tasmania					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$640,380	\$640,380	\$640,380	\$640,380	\$2,561,520

Association of Independent Schools of the Australian Capital Territory					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$784,219	\$784,219	\$784,219	\$784,219	\$3,136,876

Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$510,933	\$510,933	\$510,933	\$510,933	\$2,043,732

Catholic sector

Catholic Education Commission New South Wales					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$4,594,418	\$4,594,418	\$4,594,418	\$4,594,418	\$18,377,672

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$3,670,155	\$3,670,155	\$3,670,155	\$3,670,155	\$14,680,620

Queensland Catholic Education Commission					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$2,567,447	\$2,567,447	\$2,567,447	\$2,567,447	\$10,269,788

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$1,252,891	\$1,252,891	\$1,252,891	\$1,252,891	\$5,011,564

South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$898,993	\$898,993	\$898,993	\$898,993	\$3,595,972

Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$271,789	\$271,789	\$271,789	\$271,789	\$1,087,156

Catholic Education Office Australian Capital Territory					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$324,938	\$324,938	\$324,938	\$324,938	\$1,299,752

Catholic Education Northern Territory					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Funding amount (GST excl)	\$86,032	\$86,032	\$86,032	\$86,032	\$344,128

Students First Support Fund – summary of projects

Independent sector

Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales

Funding amount each year: \$7,485,668

- The Elevate project, which assists school leaders and teachers to meet the needs of high potential students and focuses on the students who are capable of achieving beyond prescribed core curriculum outcomes.
- Embedding Excellence – an evidence based process developed to support independent schools to drive school change.
- The Financial Management of Independent Schools project, school business manager accreditation courses, development of a school finance manual and development of an online data benchmarking tool.
- An early literacy project to promote the explicit teaching of early literacy skills in independent schools with an emphasis on meeting the needs of Indigenous students, students whose first language is not English, and students with learning difficulties.
- The STEM project, to enhance engagement, uptake and achievement in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.
- Educational Compliance, to empower school leaders to implement relevant national and state standards, frameworks, charters and legislation that underpins effective school leadership and management practices.
- Development of an early literacy screening tool and promoting the teaching of early literacy, with emphasis on meeting the needs of Indigenous students and students with learning difficulties.

Independent Schools Victoria (ISV)

Funding amount each year: \$5,444,491

- Seminars and training programmes available through ISV aimed at improving quality teaching in all schools and aligned to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Professional Standards for Teachers and the Australian Curriculum. Other seminars include 'Balancing Managing and School Leadership for Senior Leaders', 'Leading Learning that Matters' and briefings to inform school leaders on their accountability requirements under the Australian Education Act 2013.
- Direct support to teachers by modelling best practice, coaching, assisting teachers to analyse data and introducing appropriate information and communications technology to cater for individual differences.
- Organising visits by former principals to new principals to ensure appropriate support could be put in place, assisting school leaders to develop school strategic plans, and school performance sessions aimed at developing leadership skills in middle leaders.
- School governance and financial management sessions for members of school boards and access to governance guidelines material.
- Regional network meetings for teachers and aides responsible for students with individual needs and discussing student individual learning needs issues with teachers during in-school visits.

Independent Schools Queensland

Funding amount each year: \$4,833,513

- The Literacy and Numeracy Coaching Academy, which provides high quality professional learning and mentoring support for school-based coaches to lead teaching teams and enhance instruction and student outcomes.

- A school governance programme to provide tailored professional development opportunities to school governors, school boards and management.
- Targeted support for schools in the areas of financial sustainability, compliance and legislation.
- Implementation of the Teacher Performance and Development Framework and aligning action plans with school strategic plans.
- Supporting excellence in initial teacher education and building linkages with university partners.
- Supporting the development of tailored resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Schools and schools with significant populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Supporting the engagement of parents and community in school education through the research, design and development of an online portal.
- Funding to contribute to the employment costs of 23 FTE staff across a range of professional and administrative areas to support Queensland independent schools across the reform areas.

Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia

Funding amount each year: \$3,207,197

- Implementation of Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and the Principal Standard in Schools and the Performance Development Framework.
- Opportunities for independent school teachers to apply and be supported to achieve certification as a Highly Accomplished or Lead teacher.
- Learning area specific workshops on the Australian Curriculum to address reporting requirements, use of the achievement standards, assessment practices and the use of assessment resources.
- Leadership training for aspiring leaders to cover practical aspects of leadership and increase confidence and skills sets.
- Good governance training for schools through conferences, seminars, workshops and individual school planning sessions.
- Consultancy and support for school leaders and staff to effectively cater for students with disabilities.
- Targeted literacy and numeracy programmes for students in Aboriginal Community Schools.
- Support for school administration on effective and efficient financial management on an as needed basis.

Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA)

Funding amount each year: \$2,093,598

AISSA has appointment educational consultants to work with school leadership teams to provide high quality individual support to schools, having regard to the objectives that underpin the Students First Support Fund. Activities include:

- In-school support for areas such as classroom observation, coaching, mentoring, professional learning teams and effective feedback.
- Certifying teachers as Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers, consistent with AITSL procedures.
- Workshops and presentations on schooling for first world economies, the national/international agenda: how should principals respond, building improvement in teaching and learning into the strategic plan and managing school change.
- School-based professional learning to broaden and deepen teacher knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

- A major conference supporting governing councils of independent schools to develop knowledge and understanding about effective and professional governance arrangements.

Independent Schools Tasmania

Funding amount each year: \$640,380

- Professional learning opportunities in areas including Leading Teacher Development and Performance, Early Years Learning Framework strategies, responding to diversity: inclusive approaches in the classroom and vocational education and training practitioners workshop.
- Digital technologies and classroom strategies session, developed in collaboration with the Catholic and government schools sector to raise understanding of the content structure of the Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies learning area.
- Targeted support strategies for all students including specific activities to support students with disability and Indigenous students.
- Industrial briefing on changes and obligations to workplace health and safety and provision of the Fair Work Act 2009.
- Special needs network meetings to provide information, support and networking opportunities for special education coordinators, class/subject teachers, teacher aides and principals.
- Assistance with collection of data and reporting to the Tasmanian Government.
- Facilitation of access to professional development opportunities offered by Tasmanian Government Professional Learning Institute, Quality Education Leadership Institute and other Associations of Independent Schools.

Association of Independent Schools of the ACT (AISACT)

Funding amount each year: \$784,219

AISACT have primarily used Students First Support Fund funding as an opportunity to increase AISACT staff and school engagement with the office, with staff visiting member schools regularly to hear from schools about on the ground issues, ideas, challenges and opportunities. Support is offered to member schools across four main projects:

- Development of the architecture for the AISACT to support access and participation by member school staff in targeted professional learning programmes and activities.
- Enhanced capacity to support member schools to identify and meet the needs of students with disability and Indigenous students and improve collection, analysis and interpretation of data to inform teaching and learning strategies.
- Improved business-as-usual functions, including drafting a new communications strategy, induction training for new member school board members and increased access to industrial relations and legal advice for member schools.
- Enhanced application of school improvement approaches, including support in developing and implementing school improvement plans, frameworks and a system for collaborations and sharing of education best practice among member schools.

Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory

Funding amount each year: \$510,933

- Professional learning for schools to assist schools in aligning the teacher registration processes, probation and induction with the Australian Professional Standards for Teaching.
- Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers and support through application requirements.
- Workshop opportunities for individual teachers and schools on elements of the Australian Curriculum, to assist with its implementation.
- Support and consultancy for schools in the better use of data leading to better tailored strategies to meet individual students' needs and improvements in classroom delivery.
- Hosting a forum for school governors/board members with their schools leaders.

- Workshops on the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 to inform schools and teachers of their legal obligations.
- Assisting school leadership teams to understand and meet their administrative reporting requirements, including effective and efficient management of data, records and finances.

Catholic sector

Catholic Education Commission New South Wales

Funding amount each year: \$4,594,418

- Implementation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers progressed through a committee with representatives from all dioceses.
- Strategies to support the transition of children into kindergarten, literacy and numeracy and parental involvement in their child's development.
- An online facility to deliver language courses to Years 11 and 12 students as part of HSC studies.
- Supporting the use of the Australian Professional Standard for Principals.
- Implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan.

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV)

Funding amount each year: \$3,670,155

CECV used Students First Support Fund funding to support two state-wide initiatives for Catholic Schools:

- The Leading Languages Learning Initiative:
 - Professional learning including workshops on best-practice and opportunities for further tertiary study.
 - A 'Languages Reflection and Analysis Tool' based on the nine interrelated domains of the National School Improvement Tool.
 - Access to materials, including case studies on best practice (to be undertaken as part of the initiative).
 - Regular reporting on elements of the initiative, including an annual State of Our Schools: Languages report.
- The Auspiced Training and Industry Partnership:
 - Funding to train teachers to reach Certificate IV level in Training and Assessment.
 - Support for teachers to undertake industry placement to maintain industry currency.
 - Increased awareness of competency based training assessment.
 - Improved equity of access to vocational education and training in schools in rural and regional settings through onsite school-based learning.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission

Funding amount each year: \$2,567,447

- Implementation of annual, cyclical teacher professional review processes based on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
- Improved student learning outcomes through enhanced capacity in the analysis of student performance data and tracking student progress, to inform areas for improvement at the whole school and teacher level.
- Increased opportunities for parent and community engagement including through online environments.
- Provision of educational support for teachers to cater for individual student learning needs through differentiating assessment tasks, providing adjustments and using appropriate strategies for specific students.
- Training in governance, role, function and responsibilities of directors.

Catholic Education Office of Western Australia (CEWA)

Funding amount each year: \$1,252,891

- Support for newly graduated teachers, including mentoring programmes and partnerships with pre-service education providers.

- Implementation of a regional school support model, with the establishment of a pilot programme in the south-west metropolitan, Bunbury and Geraldton areas to focus on specific school needs.
- Raising focus on specialist areas – science, technology, engineering, languages, vocational education and training.
- Aboriginal Teacher assistant up-skilling in Kimberley schools and support for Kimberley schools with high Aboriginal cohorts.
- Support for other disadvantaged groups, including non-Kimberley low socio-economic status. Support targeted to literacy and numeracy and community engagement.
- Standardisation of the operating and interfacing data management and information system between schools and the CEWA.

Catholic Education South Australia

Funding amount each year: \$898,993

- Workshops focusing on classroom walkthroughs and lesson observations, performance conversations for principals and the practice of instructional rounds to explore observational approaches to improve teaching.
- Teachers released to meet with Autism Spectrum Disorder specialists to plan and implement intervention programmes, and resources provided to schools to access specialist services from Autism SA.
- A new policy on the Professional Review of School Leaders approved and trialled by all stakeholders.
- Building the capacity of rural and remote school leaders.
- Yellaka Yellakarri/Choices for Secondary Students Programme to be available for all secondary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Seminars for school leaders focusing on strong home/school/community engagement and effective administration and resources.

Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission

Funding amount each year: \$271,789

- Implementation of the Professional Standards for Teachers.
- Support in literacy and numeracy strategies for targeted schools.
- Development of system strategies to strengthen the learning outcomes of Indigenous students.
- Principal Standards Framework and leadership professional learning courses to develop principals and leadership teams in schools.
- Student health and wellbeing programmes.
- Workshops with specialists to support verified students, Indigenous students and students at risk of becoming disengaged from school to address concerns about anxiety and mental health.
- Analysis of National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy data to develop the system literacy strategy.
- Information and communications technology review.
- 'Better Boards' conference.

Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Funding amount each year: \$324,938

- Teacher performance and development processes and the implementation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
- 'From University to the Classroom' – professional learning for early career teachers.

- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum.
- Strategies developed for the inclusion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics across the curriculum.
- Current and Aspiring Leaders Development programme to improve leadership capacity.
- Implementation of the Principal Support and Development Programme in all schools.
- Implementation of the National Collection of Consistent Data for Students with Disability, including the provision of resources and development of approaches to meet the diverse needs of students.
- Governance training delivered across school boards and councils.

Catholic Education Northern Territory

Funding amount each year: \$86,032

- Alignment of documentation and processes with National Teaching Standards, including formation review processes, professional learning programmes and appraisal/performance management.
- Collaborate with the Teacher Registration Board NT in adoption of Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
- School leadership teams supported by visits from a principal consultant each term.
- Community engagement – Catholic Indigenous leadership team network meetings each term.
- Training and advice for schools for implementation of the Disability Standards for Education 2005 and understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- Review of school funding model for students with disability.
- Review of information management protocol and capabilities within the Catholic Education Office and at schools.