

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 1/1.1
Topic: Spending on school education payment

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F137

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: ... It is the same for the national partnership agreement for which there was lower than anticipated payments and the amounts of the lower payments but I am interested particularly in the school education payment. It was \$186 million lower than anticipated. Maybe there is a reason for that. It just seems a fair lump of money.

Ms Huxtable: I think, Senator, you will find in regard to national partnership payments that generally where there is a change it relates to milestones not being met. So you will recall that the national partnership triggers payments on the achievement of milestones.

...

Senator LUDWIG: Perhaps you could take it on notice, then just map out which ones, what the delay was and whether they have met their milestone by now.

Answer:

The Final Budget Outcome 2013-14 variance in the *School Education – Specific Funding* subfunction of \$186.3 million is primarily due to unmet payment milestones under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (\$174.4 million) and the Independent Public Schools National Partnership Agreement (\$6.3 million). A number of these milestones have now been met and payments will be made in 2014-15. The remaining variance primarily consists of underspends in the Schools Support programme (\$7.4 million) and the Youth Support programme (\$1.4 million), which were partially offset by increased spending under the Support for Students with Disabilities programme (\$2.6 million).

Further detail would be available from the Department of Education.