

# Senate Standing Committee on Economics

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question No: AET 124

Topic: National Report on Schooling

Hansard Page: E 132

### Senator Cameron asked:

**Senator CAMERON**—Can you provide the methodology of those fundamental checks?

**Dr Kirby**—Yes, I think we could. We could provide a description of the processes by which the RoGS is put together.

**Senator CAMERON**—If people are looking for the accurate spending on schools they should not look at

the government's figures, they should look to yours; is that what you are saying?

**Dr Kirby**—I would suggest that would be a first port of call.

**Senator CAMERON**—Even though the inputs are from a wide range of states and you are relying on their accuracy for the input?

**Dr Kirby**—That is right. Remember also that the individual states are also keeping the lookout on their

fellow states in the accuracy of that data as well. If you actually look at the report you will see that the data in

the report are very, very thoroughly described, including the caveats on the data and any data differences

between states et cetera.

**Senator CAMERON**—Have you done an analysis on the *National report on schooling*?

**Dr Kirby**—No.

**Senator CAMERON**—Could you take on notice to have a look at the *National report on schooling* and the

outcomes there, and compare them to what you are saying are the accurate figures?

**Dr Kirby**—As I indicated before, we will provide some advice on the data differences.

### Answer:

Senator Cameron requested a description of the processes by which the *Report on Government Services (RoGS)* is put together.

Heads of Governments (now COAG) created the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision in July 1993, to develop a systematic approach to reporting comparative data on the effectiveness and efficiency of government services. The Steering Committee's terms of reference were reaffirmed and extended by COAG in late 2009. The Steering Committee is supported by a secretariat located in the Productivity Commission.

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

The RoGS production process combines 'tops down' authority exercised by a Steering Committee of senior officials from central agencies, with 'bottoms up' expertise contributed by line agency working groups.