

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E844_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

With regard to the flier on school funding, titled “School funding – the facts” released by the Australian Government:

1. For the table of selected schools (p.2): please provide the assumed Commonwealth and state contributions for each school. Please also provide details of any funds from targeted programs, Commonwealth and State, provided to each one, and indicate whether any or all of this targeted funding is included in the figures published.
2. For government schools: the Commonwealth grant is a 'cash' figure, based on AGSRC for 2004; what is the assumed AGSRC for 2004? (primary and secondary); and is the 'state' figure the total 'accrual' figure less the Commonwealth 'cash' figure? Please provide the full table of 'accrual' AGSRC for each state and territory (these are not yet published), including all the explanatory footnotes.
3. List the items that would be included in the 'accrual' figure, including: superannuation; depreciation; leave provisions; payroll tax; other?
4. Please confirm that the non-government figures include primary students, while the secondary schools do not. And that the non-government schools are exempt from payroll tax, but this is included in the government schools figure?
5. Should the non-government figures include an assumption about the unfunded liabilities that are included in the government schools figures (e.g. an additional 10% to 20%)? or, if not, in what way do the figures meet accounting standards if they are used as a comparison?

Answer:

“School funding – the facts”

1. The funding shown in the table entitled ‘Public Funding of Schools – 2003 Comparison’ includes total public recurrent funding, including from targeted programs, as reported for government schools by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and for non-government schools by non-government schools and systems (data maintained by DEST).

The following table shows the breakdown requested of the total funding amounts where available.

Estimated 2003 total public recurrent funding to Schools

School Name	State/Territory	State/Territory Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m	Total \$m
The Kings School	NSW	1.1	2.6	3.6
Scotch College	VIC	0.8	2.7	3.5
Brisbane Girls Grammar School	QLD	1.6	2.3	3.9
Christ Church Grammar School	WA	1.7	1.9	3.7
Scotch College	SA	0.7	1.4	2.2
Launceston Church Grammar School	TAS	1.2	2.0	3.2
Canberra Grammar School	ACT	1.3	2.3	3.6
Fairvale High School	NSW	-	-	15.9
Balwyn High School	VIC	-	-	19.8
Beerwah State High School	QLD	-	-	10.8
Shenton College	WA	-	-	14.4
Craigmore High School	SA	-	-	9.5
Prospect High School	TAS	-	-	7.4
Lyneham High School	ACT	-	-	11.5

Note: figures may not add due to rounding

2.-3. The figures for government schools are derived from 2001-02 data (latest available) provided by each State to MCEETYA for total public recurrent expenditure on government schools. A breakdown of this data sourced to Australian Government and State/Territory government contributions is not provided by MCEETYA. The figures do not make reference to the AGSRC for 2004.

4. The estimates include total public recurrent funding for both primary and secondary levels of education for both sectors where appropriate. According to the Australian Taxation Office website, non-profit non-government schools are organisations generally exempt from payroll tax. MCEETYA data includes payroll tax (including notional amounts for Western Australia and the ACT which are exempted from paying payroll tax).

5. No.