

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. E986_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to L. Watson, "A critique of the Federal Government's recent changes to private schools funding" University of Canberra 2003

Question:

Further criticism

A further criticism that might be made is that, while the SES index might measure SES at an acceptable level of accuracy for most schools, it does not do so for the wealthiest schools – the former Category One schools in particular. This is because these schools are likely to have peculiar catchments, taking students from a range of suburbs.

Have you examined this idea? What is your response? Will you consider amending the application of the SES model to take account of these various criticisms? If not, why not?

Answer:

SES Funding Model for non-government schools

The Department's analysis of geocoded student residential data shows that the majority of independent non-government schools, regardless of their SES scores, draw students from a wide range of Census Collection Districts (CDs). For example, the average number of students drawn from a CD by each Victorian independent school is 3.0.

In relation to the second question the answer is 'No' for the above reason.