

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.1 – Funding for Schools

#### **DEST Question No. E996\_06**

Senator Wong provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

##### **Commissioned research on schools funding**

- a) Has the Department commissioned any research on funding of schools?
- b) In particular, has the Department commissioned work by Professor Brian Caldwell?
- c) If so, What is the purpose of the project?
- d) Is this project focusing on non-government schools, or will it cover funding for all schools? Please give reasons for this answer.
- e) Will it consider all Federal funding: general recurrent; capital; targeted programs?
- f) Will it cover funding from all other sources: state/territory; tuition fees and other sources of private income?
- g) Please provide details of the project's terms of reference.
- h) Apart from Professor Caldwell, who else is involved in the project? What are their qualifications and experience?
- i) Who will be interviewed and what questions will they be asked?
- j) When is the final report due?
- k) How much will the project cost? (Consultancy fees; research costs; etc.)

#### **Answer:**

##### *Commissioned research on schools funding*

The Department of Education, Science and Training has provided the following response:

- a) Yes.
- b) Yes.
- c) The purpose of the project is to provide the Australian community with a history of government funding to independent schools.

- d) The focus of the project is independent schools. Government funding to independent schools has been a feature of successive Australian Governments for the past four decades. While there are a number of histories on the development of schooling, there is no readily available reference on the history of federal government funding to independent schools in Australia that draws together the various threads of the issues into the one volume.
- e) The main focus will be on general recurrent funding.
- f) The aim of the project is to examine the history of government funding to independent schools. There may be references to state/territory funding, fees and other sources of private income.
- g) In seeking requests from suitably qualified persons to provide a quotation for the project, the Department identified the following requirements for potential suppliers:
- Provision of research services to produce to final draft, either as the author or as an editor assembling an appropriate team of subject specialists, a 350-400 page history of government funding to independent schools in Australia.
  - Using mostly secondary sources, with some new oral evidence from key participants in the field, the research project is to cover the origins of government funding to independent schools and its evolution since the Second World War.
- h) Professor Richard Selleck – Professor Selleck is Professorial Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne and Emeritus Professor, Monash University. He obtained his PhD from the University of Melbourne in 1966.

Dr Ian Wilkinson – Dr Wilkinson is an educational historian. He obtained his PhD from Monash University in 1989.

In addition, a research fellow from the Department of Education Policy and Management at the University of Melbourne will be involved.

- i) Questions asked in interviews are tailored to the role the individual played in the funding of independent schools. Where information is already available, clarification or additional information may be sought. Questions are determined in advance of an interview and are sent to an interviewee prior to the meeting. Follow-up questions are raised as the interview progresses.

The final list of people interviewed is not yet complete.

- j) The final report is due by mid 2006.
- k) The total cost for the project is \$165,000.