

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4

#### DEST Question No. E850\_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

Increase in expenditure on government schools

1. In her speech to CEDA on 1 February, Minister Bishop claims Federal Government expenditure on public schools has increased by 118% over 10 years. Could you please explain how this figure is calculated? Could you also:
  - a. Give the equivalent figure for non-government schools;
  - b. For both figures, disaggregate the amount that is due the AGSRC indexation, enrolment increases, and changes in funding policy;
  - c. Backdate this to 1996.
  - d. Provide estimates of these figures through to the end of the current quadrennium.

#### Answer:

Increase in expenditure on government schools

1.
  - a. In the 2006-07 Budget, the Australian Government provided an estimated \$9.3 billion for Australian schools and students. Table 1 shows the estimated amounts provided for state government schools and non-government schools, together with the estimated increases since 1996.

**Table 1: Australian Government Funding for schools**

	Actual 1996 <sup>1</sup> \$b	Estimated		
		2006-07 \$b	Increase over 1996	
	\$b		%	
State Government Schools	1.56	3.4	1.8	118%
Non-Government Schools	2.03	5.9	3.8	189%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>158%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 1995-96 Actual converted to accrual basis

The estimated 2006-07 Australian Government funding for Australian schools and students includes estimates of specific purpose payments to the states and territories appropriated under the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together-Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004* and *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000*; estimates of student assistance for ABSTUDY (Secondary) and Assistance for Isolated Children appropriated under the *Student Assistance Act 1973* as well as estimates of annual programmes such as the National School Drug Education Strategy and the Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme appropriated under the *Appropriations Act (No. 1)*.

Where funding is not classified as a specific purpose payment, a notional allocation has been assumed for each sector based on enrolment share.

- b-c. The information requested spans ten years of varying price bases and is not available.
- d. The Forward estimates relating to Australian Government funding for Australia schools are published in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements.