

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. E858_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Expenditure on Schools

1. Can you provide a table showing a breakdown of Commonwealth expenditure, by year and separately for government and non-government schools, that shows the increases due to enrolment growth, on the one hand, and on the other those increases due to specific policy initiatives – eg new programs or increases in funding under existing targeted programs?
2. Can you provide the data that underpins the Minister's statement that the discrepancy between Commonwealth funding to non-government versus government schools is enrolment driven? Can you confirm that this discrepancy – in terms of enrolment growth – amounts to 20% over ten years?

Answer:

Expenditure on Schools

1. Refer to E302_07 and E523_07 which provide details of the forward estimates for government and non-government schools as well as changes due to supplementation, enrolment growth, budget measures and movement of funds across financial years.
2. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, shows full-time student enrolments have increased by 1.2 per cent in state government schools and 21.5 per cent in non-government schools over the period 1996 to 2006.

Enrolment shifts between state government schools and non-government schools impact on the proportion of Australian Government funding provided for schools and students in those respective sectors, particularly in respect of the General Recurrent Grants programme which is demand driven.