

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:**

**Output Group:**

**DEST Question No. E865\_07**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

**Question:**

Non-government schools SES funding review

HoR QoN 4015 refers

With regard to the SES funding system for non-government schools:

1. Provide details of funding over the forward estimates.
2. Can the Department provide a list, in excel format, of all funding arrangements for individual schools by location (electorate and postcode)?
3. Did the Minister for Education seek to have SES funding expanded or increased during the expenditure review committee process?
4. Can the Department update the Committee on the progress of the review?
5. In the last estimates and in answer to QoN 4015, DEST failed to answer why the review was an internal review with no publicly available terms of reference.
  - a. Can the Department advise what those terms of reference are?
  - b. If not, why is it refusing to disclose the terms of reference?
  - c. Why were State and Territory Governments excluded from the review?
6. What is the timeline for the Committee's review?
7. Is the committee considering different forms of funding arrangements for SES funding?
  - a. Is the Department able to comment on the different options being considered?
  - b. Is the Department considering a proposal to do away with the commitment that funding be maintained as in the current arrangements?
8. What will happen with the Committee's findings and recommendations?
  - a. When will they go to the Minister?
  - b. When will they be made public?
9. What is the expected impact of the review on current funding arrangements?
10. Will any changes made be across all non-government schools?
11. Are there any other commitments in funding for non-government schools?

**Answer:**

*Non-government schools SES funding review*

1. Funding for non-government schools under the SES funding arrangements:

	<b>2006-07 \$'000</b>	<b>2007-08 \$'000</b>	<b>2008-09 \$'000</b>	<b>2009-10 \$'000</b>
Non-Government Schools *	5,207,454	5,594,949	5,991,800	6,400,604

\* Includes estimates for Non-Government Schools General Recurrent Grants and School Term Hostels

Source: 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are from 2006-07 Budget Paper No. 3, Table B1 page 46 Non-Government Schools

2. This information is contained in the answer to E525\_07.
3. That is a matter for government.
4. Relevant stakeholders were given the opportunity to comment on the current SES funding arrangements. Consultations were completed in September 2006. Policy work in the Department is now building on those consultations in order to inform government decisions about non-government school funding for 2009 – 2012.
5. Note that House of Representatives question on notice 4015 did not ask why the review was an internal review with no publicly available terms of reference.
  - a. There are no public terms of reference for the review as it is not a public inquiry.
  - b. The review is part of the deliberations of government.
  - c. The SES funding arrangements determine Australian Government general recurrent funding entitlements only for non-government schools. All stakeholders, including state and territory governments, were able to provide written comment to the Department.
6. Consultations have been completed and will inform government decisions about non-government school funding for 2009 – 2012.
7. The committee assessed the SES funding arrangements and how well the arrangements meet the Government's objectives for the funding of non-government schools.
  - a-b That would be in the nature of advice to government.
8. That is a matter for government.
9. Advice from the review process will inform government decisions about non-government school funding for 2009 – 2012.
10. That is a matter for government.
11. That is a matter for government.