

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0261_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

National Education Reform

Can the department outline how the Commonwealth is holding states and territories subject to the Heads of Agreement for National Education Reform to account regarding agreed reforms, funding co-contributions, rates of indexation and the implementation of a needs-based funding model? Can the Department please provide any documents demonstrating the steps the Commonwealth is taking to hold these states to account? This question is relevant to the agreements in place between the Commonwealth and New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

Answer

There is no provision in the legislation for sanctions against a state or territory relating to commitments set out in intergovernmental agreements.

It is the responsibility of relevant jurisdictions to abide by the requirements of the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) and associated bilateral agreements.

Reporting arrangements are outlined in the NERA and the bilateral agreements and include national reporting, provision of school-level information for the *My School* website and annual reporting by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council against the outcomes and COAG targets specified in the NERA.