

**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. ED0440\_14**

**Senator Wright asked on 26 February 2014, Hansard page 89**

**Question**

***Independent public schools***

Senator WRIGHT: The minister has stated there is evidence that independent public schools lift student performance. Where is that evidence to be found? Mr Cook:

There is a range of evidence, which I am happy to provide on notice. I can go through it in detail here if you would like. Senator WRIGHT: You can provide it on notice. ...

Senator WRIGHT: Although they did not actually find that there was a significant difference that was shown in student achievement, if I understand it. That was the conclusion of that report, as I understand it.

Mr Cook: The evaluation is very early in the program.

Senator WRIGHT: Perhaps if you put it on notice. If all the evidence is there, then we can have a look at it.

Mr Cook: Yes. That report was very clear in the fact that communities and principals had provided a lot of support in relation to it.

Senator WRIGHT: Yes. You have referred to that anecdotal evidence before, but I am interested in statistically significant evidence that indicates an increase in student performance.

Mr Cook: It would be difficult to find that after 12 months of the program.

Senator WRIGHT: I am talking generally. There are international studies as well, which also do not support the view that in fact there are real changes. That is my understanding, but if there is other evidence I would be really interested to know that.

Mr Cook: Yes, there are significant amounts. The OECD, World Bank and many independent reports have indicated that.

Senator WRIGHT: If you could provide that it would be helpful, because I know it is a contested area.

Mr Cook: I am very happy to do that.

## Answer

The following studies have drawn links between school autonomy/school leadership and student performance:

- The Productivity Commission, 2012, *Schools Workforce*, Research Report, Canberra

Available at: [www.pc.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/116651/schools-workforce.pdf](http://www.pc.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/116651/schools-workforce.pdf)

- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2011, *PISA in Focus* 9, Paris

Available at: [www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/pisainfocus/48910490.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/pisainfocus/48910490.pdf)

- The World Bank, 2011, *Making Schools Work: New Evidence on Accountability Reforms*, Washington DC

Available at:  
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2011/01/13888143/making-schools-work-new-evidence-accountability-reforms>

- McKinsey and Company, 2010, *How the World's Most Improved School Systems Keep Getting Better*

Available at:  
[www.mckinseysociety.com/how-the-worlds-most-improved-school-systems-keep-getting-better/](http://www.mckinseysociety.com/how-the-worlds-most-improved-school-systems-keep-getting-better/)

- The World Bank, 2009, *Decentralized Decision-Making in Schools, the Theory and Evidence on School-Based Management*, Washington DC

Available at:

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2009/01/10630021/decentralized-decision-making-schools-theory-evidence-school-based-management>

- Wößmann, L., 2007, *International Evidence on School Competition, Autonomy and Accountability*, Peabody Journal of Education, Volume 82, Issue 2-3

Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01619560701313176>