

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E264_04

Senator Nettle asked on 5 June 2003, EWRE Hansard pages 525-526

Question:

Provide the data to be able to see the impact of a Commonwealth decision, the SES funding model, on those particular areas that I am talking about.

Answer:

Impact of SES funding model on enrolment numbers at government schools in the outer Western Suburbs of Sydney

The proportion of students enrolled in non-government compared to government schools has increased at a very slight level annually over a number of years. This growth in the non-government sector has taken place independently of the funding model in use, and reflects choices parents make in respect of their children's school education. These choices are made for a wide variety of reasons, including support of a particular educational philosophy, views on discipline, values, religious affiliation and other school-based matters.

The SES funding model has only been in operation since 2001, and it is not possible using data presently available to determine whether any change in enrolment share in Western Sydney suburbs is attributable in any way to this funding model, as distinct from other reasons why parents choose to send their children to non-government schools.