

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E138_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Minister's release: School funding – the facts (undated – but included in package announcing funding for 2005-2008).

Please provide full details of the funding elements and sources for the schools listed under the headings 'higher fee non government' and 'state government schools' on page 2. Include the following, for each school:

- Commonwealth
- State or Territory government
- Private: fees and donations; other sources of private income
- Recurrent and capital

Include a statement from the Department's auditor that the sources of funding for each school are calculated on a comparable basis, taking into consideration accounting protocols for the use of cash and accrual accounting data.

Some of the non-government schools in the table include primary students, while all the government schools cover secondary students only. Make an appropriate allowance for this in the revised figures.

Answer:

Minister's release: School funding – the facts

The government school figures used in the Minister's release are based on data provided by States and Territories through MCEETYA reflecting average per capita recurrent funding to government schools. The non-government school figures used in the Minister's release are based on government grants data reported in the Financial Questionnaire. It is not appropriate for the Department's auditor to comment on figures in the Minister's release.

Schools in the Minister's release have been chosen based on location and total student population. Enrolment figures used are based on the most current actual enrolment data available for each school.

As indicated in the Minister's release, the figures in the tables are public recurrent funding amounts. They do not include any private or capital funding. Breakdowns by school of the funding to levels of government are not available: the MCEETYA data does not provide an Australian Government-State/Territory government breakdown; and DEST does not publish Financial Questionnaire data at the individual school level.