

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.1 – Funding for schools

#### **DEST Question No. E092\_06**

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

While it appears that Commonwealth funding of maintenance in public schools is competitive and relies on individual submissions from each school, funding to private schools appears to be delivered to the system to which it belongs. What is the purpose of this unequal treatment of the schools in the public sector?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Investing In Our Schools Programme*

Maintenance of State schools is a State Government responsibility. However, in response to representations to the Australian Government about shortcomings in this respect and more broadly about the condition of school infrastructure, the \$1 billion *Investing In Our Schools Programme* was established. \$700 million will be provided to state schools over the four year programme, and \$300 million to non-government schools.

There is a competitive process for funding under the Programme for both sectors. The Department will administer the process for State school applications for funding under the *Investing In Our Schools Programme*. The existing Block Grant Authority infrastructure will administer applications for funding from the non-government school sector. These approaches were agreed in consultation with key stakeholders and were publicised when the Programme was announced in October 2004.