EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E275_07

Senator Wong asked on 1 June 2006, EWRE Hansard Page 97.

Question:

In regards to the targeted index since 2000

1. Perhaps the way to deal with this is for you to explain on notice to me how these indexes are calculated.

2. Are you also able to explain why there is that variance between the targeted and primary and secondary indexes?

Answer:

Calculation of the Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC)

The AGSRC Amounts and AGSRC Index are based on government expenditure data maintained by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). The AGSRC amounts and AGSRC Index are changed on an annual basis after consideration of movements in that data.

The AGSRC primary amount is calculated as total primary recurrent expenditure divided by primary enrolments. The Primary index number is the percentage change in the primary amount from one year to the next. The Secondary index number can be calculated similarly.

The AGSRC Index (or Targeted Index) is calculated as adjusted total State government expenditure divided by total enrolments to arrive at a 'Targeted amount'. The year-on-year change in this amount then gives the AGSRC Index.

Further explanation of the derivation of the AGSRC is contained in paragraphs 12 to 16 of Appendix G to the *Australian Government Programmes for Schools Quadrennial Administrative Guidelines 2005-2008* (available online at http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/programmes_funding/forms_guidelines/quadguide/schools_quadrennial_administrative_guidelines_2005_to_2008.htm) and in chapter 3 of the *National Report on Schooling in Australia 2004* (available online at http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/anr2004/ch3_background.htm).