QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0350_11

Senator Abetz asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 15.

Question

$78,000 INCREASE OUT OF A TOTAL BUDGET

Senator ABETZ—Other than the two Greens of course but let us move on. It was a $78,000 increase on $45 million?
Dr Bruniges—That is correct.
Senator ABETZ—So that would not even cover for inflation or CPI, would it, so in real terms it is a cut?
Dr Bruniges—It is an increase of $78,000.
Senator ABETZ—I know that in dollar terms but—
Ms Paul—Not necessarily. I think I would want to work that out. It might actually represent indexation, I am not sure. I think we would have to take that on notice.
Senator ABETZ—$78,000 on $45 million?
Ms Paul—I think we would have to take that on notice.

Answer

Funding under the Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs (LNSLN) program is indexed annually in accordance with movements in the Australian Government School Recurrent Costs.

The allocation of funding under the LNSLN program is determined using student data. LNSLN funding contains two components.

The recurrent component is allocated to non-government education authorities based on a combination of student characteristics (socioeconomic status, language background other than English and distribution of total enrolment numbers). The total available funding for this component is fixed and does not increase or decrease based on changes to total student numbers. The share for each non-government education authority may change based on changes to the distribution of students with these characteristics across the sectors and authorities.

The per capita component is based on a set per capita amount multiplied by the number of students with disability as determined by individual state and territory definitions of disability. It is a variable component, where the total funding available may change according to changes in the total numbers of students with disability. Funding is allocated to non-government education authorities at the state/territory level based on their numbers of students with disability.

2001 ABS Census data was used in the calculation of the recurrent component of

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LNSLN funding in 2008. 2006 ABS Census data was used in the calculation of the recurrent component of LNSLN funding in 2009. A shift in the share of students with specific characteristics within the non-government school sector between 2001 and 2006 resulted in a reduction in the share of the recurrent component of LNSLN funding for the NSW Catholic Education Commission in 2009.

Following the annual calculation of LNSLN funding using the most recently available student data and the application of indexation, the total allocation of LNSLN funding to the NSW Catholic Education Commission in 2009 increased by $78,000 over the 2008 allocation.