

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E414_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November, EWRE Hansard page 131-132

Refers to DEST Questions E015_04, E617_03

Question:

- (a) Can you provide me with a table showing all the repayments since 1996 to the Commonwealth under sections 136 and 137 of those administrative guidelines? I would be looking for the names of the schools, the details of the purposes of the funding provided, the amount paid and the amount subsequently repaid.
- (b) Could you also provide me with a table since 1996 of schools that did not repay, and the steps that were taken by the Commonwealth to recoup the funds in the circumstances?
- (c) Can you tell me what happened to Gippsland Christian College, which received a capital grant of \$120,000 in 2000 and closed in 2002? What happened there?
- (d) Stanthorpe Adventist Primary School in Queensland received \$37,800 in 2001 and closed the following year. I will give you a few more because I want to make sure I get the information right. Tarlina Community School in Victoria got \$40,000 in 2002 but closed in 2002. Kooralbyn International School in Queensland got \$816,000 through the 1990s and closed in 2002. They got an emergency grant of \$100,000 in 2001. That is right, isn't it?

Answer:

Sections 136 and 137 of the Administrative Guidelines

These sections provide that the Australian Government retains for 20 years a right to repayment of the whole or a portion of capital grants of more than \$50,000 paid to non-government schools for facilities, where the facilities are sold or disposed of or no longer used for the purpose approved by the Commonwealth. For equipment purchased through grants, where the equipment is valued at over \$50,000 the period of repayment right is 10 years or 5 years for computer equipment.

The Government considers action to recover funds where schools are sold. Where schools which have received capital grants go into liquidation, the Australian Government stands in line with other unsecured creditors for repayment of funds.

The purpose of the Capital Grants Programme is to provide capital facilities for school education purposes. If school facilities funded through capital grants are sold and subsequently used for educational purposes, the aim of the Programme is still achieved. In that case any residual Commonwealth interest can be transferred to the new owner and no funds need be recovered.

Where systemic schools that received capital grants are sold and the system undertakes to use funds freed from the sale for capital purposes in the system, no recovery action is taken.

Tables setting out the information requested in (a) and (b) are below.

(a) Repayments since 1996 to the Commonwealth of Capital Grants to non-government schools

School Name	Capital Grant Amount	Grant Year	Project Description	Amount Repaid
Mullumbimby Christian College, Mullumbimby, NSW	\$79,000	1995	New classroom and pupils' amenities.	\$59,250
The Hall for Children Special Developmental School (Blue Mountains Special Education Centre, Hazelbrook, NSW)	\$165,100	1994	Gymnasium/multi-purpose centre, pupils' amenities and associated equipment.	\$132,080
St Andrew's Private School, Newtown, Vic	\$155,000	1983	Purchase of Newtown property.	\$17,000
	\$90,000	1993	New classroom and refurbishments.	\$76,500
Kindalin Christian School, Castlereagh, NSW	\$144,000	1989	Construction of 5 classrooms, library, staff and administration area and toilets.	\$108,000
Aurora Meander School for Rudolf Steiner Education, Yarramundi, NSW	\$167,000	1991	Classrooms and pupils' amenities.	\$18,650.29
Mt Meillum Environmental School Association, Mount Mellam, Qld	\$101,000	(before 1997)	Student accommodation and supervisors' quarters.	\$103,000 (incl interest)
Mackillop Catholic Primary School, Yangebup, WA	\$373,143	1989	Construction of 8 classrooms & ancillary areas.	\$298,851
Christ the King School, Beaconsfield, WA	\$258,000	1986	New classroom and conversion and refurbishment of existing areas.	\$237,600
Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association (TACCA), Launceston, Tas	\$128,000	1991	Purchase of land and house, and alterations.	\$81,500

(b) Non-repayment of Capital Grants from non-government schools

Year closed	School Name	Capital Grant Amount	Grant Year	Project Description	Steps taken by Department to recoup payment
2001	Vaocluse College, Richmond, Vic	\$97,693	1993	Computer equipment.	Purchased by the Christian Brothers and now part of St Kevin's College so no recovery necessary.
		\$519,649	1985	Various facilities.	
		\$744,702	1987		
2002	Tarlina Community School, Cockatoo, Vic	\$40,000	2000	Refurbishment of classrooms, kitchen and library.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
2002	St Joseph's School, South Yarra, Vic	\$54,488	1990	Refurbishment of facilities.	Site being used by Malvern Community School so no recovery necessary.
2002	Stanthorpe Adventist Primary, Stanthorpe, Qld	\$37,800	2001	Construction of covered outdoor learning area.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery action necessary.
				Construction of new facilities, including library, classrooms, administration and pupils' amenities.	Recovery action commenced, but liquidator advised no funds remaining for distribution to unsecured creditors.
2002	The Kooralbyn International School, Kooralbyn, Qld	\$778,400	1993-95	Provision of computer equipment	
		\$37,618	1994		
2002	Gippsland Christian College - Campuses at Morwell and Traralgon, Vic	\$120,000	2000	Refurbishment of library and science areas.	The school is being liquidated and the Traralgon site has been sold to another school. DEST is awaiting a progress report from the liquidator.
2002	The Valley Christian Community School (now known as Gippsland Christian College), Morwell, Vic	\$109,000	1992	Construction of classrooms, admin area and library.	
				Construction of classrooms, admin facilities, staff and student amenities.	Action on hold – school may restart.
2001	Obadiah Christian College, Johns River, NSW	\$175,000	1998		
	Merrivale Independent Primary School Cooperative Ltd, Burwood, Vic	\$22,200	1996	Refurbishment of facilities.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.

2000	Glendale Christian College, Victor Harbor, SA	<p>\$116,455</p> <p>\$21,069</p> <p>\$116,130</p> <p>\$246,971</p> <p>\$488,484</p> <p>\$409,109</p> <p>\$284,201</p> <p>\$117,607</p>	<p>1994, 1996</p> <p>1995</p> <p>1995-97</p> <p>1996, 1998</p> <p>1997-99</p> <p>1998-00</p> <p>1999-00</p> <p>2000</p>	<p>Construction of classrooms and withdrawal areas (Goolwa campus).</p> <p>Construction of language teaching areas and provision of technology (Goolwa campus)</p> <p>Construction of classrooms (Goolwa campus).</p> <p>Construction of classroom, library and student amenities (Goolwa campus).</p> <p>Construction of classrooms, science and industrial arts areas and associated facilities (Goolwa campus).</p> <p>Construction of home economics and art facilities, and student amenities (Goolwa campus).</p> <p>Construction of classrooms and admin complex (Goolwa campus).</p> <p>Construction of classrooms, technology/language resource and library facilities (Goolwa campus).</p>	<p>School sold to Anglican system and Commonwealth's interest transferred to new school authority.</p>
2000	The Foothills School, Guildford, WA	<p>\$95,000</p> <p>\$80,000</p> <p>\$100,000</p>	<p>1990</p> <p>1990</p> <p>1998-99</p>	<p>Construction of manual industrial art area.</p> <p>Purchase of property and minor works at Midvale for primary school campus.</p> <p>Refurbishment of classrooms.</p>	<p>Site sold. Commonwealth is an unsecured creditor and there are no remaining funds. Decision taken by Delegate not to pursue recovery.</p>

2000	Ascension College, Junortoun, Vic	\$200,000	1993	Purchase of leased school facilities.	Commonwealth is an unsecured creditor and there are no remaining funds. Decision taken by Delegate not to pursue recovery.
2000	St John's Primary School, Gilgandra, NSW	\$49,500	1993	Purchase of computer equipment.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
		\$13,000	1994	Watering system and grass for school oval.	
		\$8,500	1997	Hard surfaced playing area.	
1999	Hopetown Special School, Wyong, NSW	\$74,000	1996	Replacement of sewerage system with town main connection.	School handed over to the NSW Dept of Education in Oct 1999 so no recovery necessary.
1999	Aboriginal Community School, West Moonah, Tas	\$564,850	1995	Construction of classrooms, craft and special education facilities, library, office and pupils' amenities. Planning grant.	School on Aboriginal trust land and cannot be sold. Site being used for other educational purposes. Have approved use of facilities for Aboriginal cultural activities pending a possible further review of their use as a school. Decision taken by Delegate not to recover funds.
		\$4,900	1997-98	Equipment including computers.	
		\$16,000	1996	Construction and conversions to provide classrooms, music and drama rooms, staff room and associated facilities.	
1999	All Souls and St Gabriel's School, Charters Towers, Qld	\$179,700	1996		Recovery action underway. Amount to be recovered is \$146,803.
1999	La-Djardarr Bay Catholic School, La-Djardarr Bay Via Broome, WA	\$100,000	1996	Construction of classroom, administration and amenities.	Demountable classroom is being used by Walawuru Catholic School so no recovery necessary.

1999	Chanel College, Lovely Banks, Vic	\$281,991	1990	Construction of science facilities. Refurbishment of library and amenities for students with disabilities.	Site is being sold to Winthrop Baptist College. This entity will accept Commonwealth interest when settlement is reached towards the end of 2003.
		\$534,912	1991-92		
1998	Zoe Community School, Fern Tree, Tas	\$9,000	1995	Purchase of computer equipment and associated building modifications.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
1998	Lindisfarne School, Unley, SA	\$25,000	1991	Construction of pupils' amenities	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
1998	Carinya Alternative School, Martin, WA	\$3,000	1997	Provision of resources and associated library equipment.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
1997	Sacred Heart School, Mount Morgan, Qld	\$36,125	1992	Refurbishment of classrooms, library and administration.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
1997	Goulburn Seventh Day Adventist School, Kenmore, NSW	\$13,000	1996	Purchase of computer equipment.	Grant \$50,000 or less so no recovery necessary.
1997	Daystar School for Rudolf Steiner Education, Lillian Rock Via Kyogle, NSW	\$295,000	1989	Provision of classrooms, library and amenities.	School sold site to NSW Department of Education so no recovery necessary.
		\$214,000	1990-91	Construction of classrooms and amenities.	
		\$180,000	1993	Construction of library and student amenities.	
1996	Kilmara School, Thebarton, SA	\$134,263	1988-90	Conversion to provide woodwork and metal workshop.	Site is being used for educational purposes so no recovery necessary.
		\$150,000	1993	Upgrade of admin area and pupils' amenities.	
-	Harry Giese Centre, Tiwi, NT	\$39,950	1987	Planning grant.	Approval for unspent funds to be used for extension to children's amenities.

(c) Gippsland Christian College

See table (b) above. Consideration of recovery action will follow advice of sale of site.

(d) Stanthorpe Adventist Primary School, Tarlina Community School and Kooralbyn International School.

See table (b) above. Capital grants to Stanthorpe and Tarlina were below the threshold for recovery. Kooralbyn went into receivership and the liquidators advised there were no funds available for unsecured creditors. While Kooralbyn received \$100,000 in 2000 under the Schools Transitional Emergency Assistance (STEA) Programme, there is no provision to recover grants under this Programme where schools go into liquidation.