

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. E418_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003.

Refers to DEST Question E285_04

Question:

Glendale College is a school that received an Establishment Grant in 2001 – it has now received both tranches, totalling almost \$321 000. The school apparently opened as a “new” school with over 300 enrolments.

We have looked at schools like this before – schools that have suddenly appeared from nowhere, with large initial enrolments. The Department indicates in E285_04 that it has examined the enrolments of the school on the same site that closed the previous year – Glendale Christian College – and reports that about a third of the students from the “old” school continued at the “new” one.

- (a) When did the Department look into this? Was it prior to the decision to pay it an Establishment Grant, or subsequently, after the question was raised in June Estimates 2003?
- (b) What proportion of a school’s enrolments would have to be “new” for the school to be classified as a genuinely new school, for this purpose? If fewer than two-thirds of the students were “new”, would the school be a new school?
- (c) In its various incarnations and at various addresses, this school has received \$1.8 million in capital grants from the Commonwealth – all but \$70 000 since 1996. Is that correct? Presumably the existing capital stock was one thing that the “old” school handed over to the “new” school. Can you confirm that?
- (d) Between 2000 and 2003, the school has consistently had two campuses, but these have been at five different locations over that period – each “campus” has moved at least once. Can you confirm this?
- (e) However, the school’s schedule of Commonwealth capital grant payments reads:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Grant (\$)</i>
1994	40 000
1995	31 069
1996	327 700
1997	264 130
1998	273 726
1999	467 484
2000	395 917

Which campuses, or buildings, has the Commonwealth paid for, in whole or in part, that are no longer in the possession of Glendale College, however named?

Which sums in the above table paid for buildings that are no longer part of the school’s capital stock?

- (f) How much money has been recovered from the school, in any of its incarnations, as provided for in the Administrative Guidelines, with respect to buildings no longer used by the school, or sold by the school?
- (g) Has the Department sought to recover capital funds across the change in ownership of the school – seeking reimbursement from the “new” school with respect to the “old” school’s buildings?
- (h) If the Department has *not* sought to recover, and/or not succeeded in recovering these funds, from either school, how has the school been adjudged a “new” school for the purpose of Establishment Grants.
- (i) I note that, in answer E285_04, the Department states, “A school is not eligible for Establishment Grant funding simply for formally changing its name.” Is this school (or this set of school buildings) being treated as *not* a new school for Capital Grants purposes, but as *new* for Establishment Grant purposes?

Answer:

Glendale Christian College and Glendale College

(a) The clientele of a school is one of the factors considered during the assessment of an application for Australian Government funding for a new school. The clientele and origin of enrolments were issues which formed part of the decision to consider the application from Glendale College as one for a new school. As advised in E285_04, under the current governing legislation, once approved as a new school Glendale College was automatically entitled to Establishment Grant funding for the 2001 and 2002 programme years.

(b) There is no set proportion of school enrolments that must be met for a school to be treated as a new school. The Department considered Glendale College’s submission against a number of criteria applied to all new school applications. The origin of the initial enrolment cohort is one factor but also considered is the nature of the clientele, ownership, affiliation, State registration, administration, staff, location and catchment area. No single criterion is regarded as definitively deciding the matter and not all criteria have equal relevance or importance in every case.

(c) It is correct that Glendale Christian College had received \$1.8 million in capital grants. It is also correct that Glendale College took over the capital stock of the former Glendale Christian College.

(d) When it closed at the end of 2000, Glendale Christian College (GCC) was located at the following sites:

Head campus - George Main Road, Victor Harbour

Subsidiary campus - Glendale Grove, Goolwa

When commencing in 2001, Glendale College was located at the following sites:

Head campus - 2 Glendale Grove, Goolwa (site of GCC subsidiary campus)

Subsidiary campus - 2 Mill Road, Victor Harbour (new site)

In 2003, the Subsidiary campus relocated from 2 Mill Road to Baccus Road, Victor Harbour.

In summary, since 2000, the two schools have used 4 separate sites. Of these, the Glendale Grove site has never relocated.

(e) Which campuses, or buildings, has the Commonwealth paid for, in whole or in part, that are no longer in the possession of Glendale College?

Nil

Which sums in the above table paid for buildings that are no longer part of the school's capital stock?

Nil

(f) How much money has been recovered from the school with respect to buildings no longer used by the school, or sold by the school?

Not applicable

(g) No. The approved authority for the new school has accepted responsibility for any Australian Government residual interest in the capital grants paid to the approved authority of Glendale Christian College. Should the facilities so funded cease to be used for educational purposes or be sold, the new owners will then be liable for the Australian Government residual interest.

(h) Further to the response of questions (a) and (b), Australian Government residual interest in property or equipment is not a consideration in the processing of a new school application. In this case, had there been any Australian Government residual interest in funding for a site not being used by the new school (eg the site at George Main Rd), recovery action would be taken up with the approved authority of Glendale Christian College.

(i) No. As previously stated, the approved authority for the new school has accepted responsibility for the residual Australian Government interest in the capital grants paid to the former Glendale Christian College.