

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. E420_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003.

Refers to DEST Question E287_04

Question:

- (a) What are the enrolments at school level at Child Side School, Boyanup, WA? Are they all at Year 1 level?
- (b) Is this school similar to Wilgie View, in that it has very small school-level enrolments, that fluctuate?
- (c) Schools such as Wilgie View and possibly Child Side School could not achieve registration in, for example, Victoria – because in that state a minimum enrolment level is required. This is not the case in terms of Commonwealth grants eligibility. Has the Department considered imposing a minimum enrolment level for eligibility for Commonwealth grants? If not, why not?

Answer:

Child Side School, WA

- (a) Child Side School reported a full time equivalent (FTE) total of 6.4 primary students attending the school on the 2003 Schools Census Day. The students are reported against the Pre-year 1, Year 1 and Year 4 grades.
- (b) Child Side School commenced operation from the beginning of 2003. As the school has only been in operation for one year it is not possible to comment on enrolment fluctuations.
- (c) The Australian Government abolished the New Schools Policy with effect from 1997. This meant that schools were no longer subject to the minimum and maximum enrolment restrictions in place under that policy. The Government considered that it was a matter for State and Territory Governments to set up whatever regulatory mechanisms they believed appropriate as part of their registration procedures.