

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW851_09

Senator Mason asked on 22 October 2008, EEWHR Hansard page 56.

Question

Schools private income

Senator MASON - You mentioned the legislative authority under which you collect that information

Ms Nicoll - If I could add to that. We do collect information about other private income and it is coded according to a number of aspects which we ask non-government schools to report. We can certainly provide you with a list of what 'other private income' comprises.

Senator MASON - Thank you. That would be very useful. Will that change under the bill?

Ms Nicoll - As Ms Rollings outlined, we are looking at reviewing the current financial questionnaire.

Answer

Under their funding agreements with the Commonwealth, non-government schools are required to submit private income data in the Financial Questionnaire (FQ) by 30 April each year. This requirement remains in place under the *Schools Assistance Bill 2008*.

The FQ contains aggregated data on income, expenses and loans and is based on a school's audited financial accounts.

The FQ Instructions require schools to report 'Other Private Income'. This includes income from :

- telephone calls
- photocopiers
- non-fundable enrolment & application fees
- grants from church/parish
- rent for school facilities (during term)
- interest and dividends
- donations for recurrent purposes
- receipts from Building Funds etc
- foreign exchange gains – recurrent
- other income.

The FQ is being reviewed with a view to streamlining the collection process, including a reduction in the quantity of information collected, whilst maintaining appropriate accountabilities. This is consistent with the Government's response to the recommendations of the Bank's Taskforce on Reducing the Regulatory Burden.