

## Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

**Topic:** Gonski Review

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Mason

**Question reference number:** 19

**Type of Question:** FPA, P93

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 April 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator MASON: Senator Sinodinos is right though. Is the funding driving the model or is the model driving the funding. That is really the issue isn't that right? Originally, it was all about the model and the loadings. I understand that, Ms Wilson; I am not trying to be totally cynical about this. No, I am not, Minister, I know the Gonski model and I know the particular loadings. The problem is, is it really about refining that or is that just about how much money the Commonwealth can scrounge from the states?

Senator CONROY: I really think you are asking an opinion now rather than a question.

Senator MASON: You can answer this.

Senator CONROY: I can take it on notice for you and see what answer I can get for you. I do not think you can ask the officer for an opinion.

Senator SINODINOS: In that context, if you are taking questions on notice, what about what the Commonwealth may have put aside in an envelope for this particular process?

Senator Conroy: I am sure we are not in a position where we could reveal our negotiating hand to you, Senator Sinodinos.

Senator SINODINOS: I am not asking that; I am asking whether there is an envelope that has been put to one side at the Commonwealth level for this exercise.

Senator Conroy: I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Prime Minister has indicated that in the lead up to and in the 2013-14 Budget structural savings will be identified to fund major new structural reforms.

Savings and expenditure decisions are considered by the Cabinet through the 2013-14 Budget process.