



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Education

Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

- 1) I refer to page 293, Significant Issues Impacting the Agency - third dot point regarding the evaluation of the student-centred funding model, and I ask:
- (a) Will the reduction made last year to the funding amount received by larger high schools continue into the 2018-19 financial year;

Answer:

In 2018, an equity adjustment was made to the student-centred funding model (SCFM) prior to the comprehensive review of the model. The change saw a more equitable share of funding going to smaller senior high schools and less funding going to large senior high schools. Economies of scale are evident as student numbers increase, which means larger schools have significant amounts of discretionary funding after they have met the general operating costs for a school.

This reflects the 2012 report by Professor Richard Teese from The University of Melbourne that highlighted advantages to large schools and disadvantages to smaller schools.

The same approach will be taken in 2019 as the evaluation is currently underway.

- (b) Is it likely these amounts will change following the completion of the funding model review;

Answer:

The large school equity adjustment factor is being considered in the evaluation of the student-centred funding model. The Department will consider the findings and recommendations once the final report is received.

- (c) Is it correct that the per student funding allocated for older primary school students is less than that allocated for younger students and high schools students;

Answer:

Yes, the per-student price for Years 4 to 6 is less than for younger students, reflecting both the importance of investing in the earlier years (Kindergarten to Year 3) and the industrial conditions (smaller class sizes for these years). It is also less than for secondary school students, reflecting the different industrial conditions for secondary teachers.

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(d) If yes to c), is this issue being considered in the funding model review; and

Answer:

Yes, the evaluation of the student-centred funding model will consider the relative per-student prices.

(e) If no to d), why not?

Answer:

Not applicable.



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING