

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR 2013/14 BUDGET ESTIMATES

HEARING

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2013

HON SUE ELLERY MLC ASKED –

A2. Provide the estimations (global, not school-by-school) of all of the questions on notice asked by the Hon Sue Ellery MLC on which the budget papers are based.

A: *Question on Notice 4 asked, "What is the reduction in 2014, in base teacher FTE (full time equivalent) allocation from 2013?"*

The Government has committed to maintain 2013 teacher FTE numbers in 2014. Given forecast enrolment growth, this will result in an increase, on average, of less than half a student per teacher across the system. To maintain teacher numbers at 2013 levels, the Department of Education has implemented a number of strategies, including changes to the base FTE allocation.

It is important to note that the base allocation is in addition to the allocation of teacher FTE based on student enrolments.

The changes to the base allocation formula total approximately 342 FTE (based on enrolment forecasts) across all schools. It is important to note that overall there will not be a reduction in existing teacher FTE numbers as 2013 teacher numbers will be maintained in 2014 at the whole-of-Department level.

*Question on Notice 5 asked, "What is the reduction in 2014, of teacher FTE generated by the per student allocation year level multiplier?"*

The Government has committed to maintain 2013 teacher FTE numbers in 2014. Given forecast enrolment growth, this will result in an increase, on average, of less than half a student per teacher across the system. To maintain teacher numbers at 2013 levels, the Department has implemented a number of strategies, including changes to the year-level multipliers for Years 8 to 12. There has been no change to the multipliers for Years 1 to 7.

The changes to the year-level multipliers total approximately 117 FTE (based on enrolment forecasts) across all schools. It is important to note that overall there will not be a reduction in existing teacher FTE numbers as 2013 teacher numbers will be maintained in 2014 at the whole-of-Department level.

*Question on Notice 6 asked, "What is the reduction in 2014 of the following student program funding:*

*(a) teacher FTE allocation in the EAL/D Support program?*

*(b) teacher FTE allocation in the Intensive English Centres?*

*(c) teacher FTE allocation using 2014 multiplier for students with special education needs?*

- (a) Based on enrolment forecasts, the changes to the BAL/D program total 7.4 FTE.
- (b) Based on enrolment forecasts, the changes to Intensive English Centres total 26.6 FTE.
- (c) There are no reductions to teacher FTE allocations in 2014 associated with multipliers for students with special education needs.

It is important to note that overall there will not be a reduction in existing teacher FTE numbers as 2013 teacher numbers will be maintained in 2014 at the whole-of-Department level.

*Question on Notice 8 asked, "What is the reduction of Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer FTE using the 2014 year level multiplier?"*

Based on enrolment forecasts, there would be 105 FTE fewer Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers allocated in 2014. While there will be fewer AIEOs allocated in 2014, every Aboriginal child will still receive an allocation of AIEO time.

*Question on Notice 9 asked, "What is the reduction in the number of education assistants (mainstream) FTE using the per student FTE staffing in 2014?"*

Based on enrolment forecasts, there would be 91 FTE fewer mainstream early childhood education assistants allocated in 2014. While there will be fewer overall mainstream early childhood education assistants in 2014, the Department is introducing a new model in 2014 that will allocate these education assistants on a per student basis rather than based on the type and number of Kindergarten to Year 2 classes formed. This will address an existing anomaly whereby a class of 15 pre-primary students received an allocation of 1.1 FTE and a class of 14 students received zero education assistant allocation.