

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C454

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 23 April 2015

Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Education.

I refer to the Minister's statements that the average funding per student is \$18,875, and I ask;

1. Is this the average funding per student provided directly to schools?
2. If no to (1), what other costs are included in this figure?
3. Does the calculation of the average funding figure for 2014/15 include capital expenditure for this financial year?
4. What is the state average funding per student provided directly to schools?
5. What is the state average funding per student provided directly to:
 - a. primary schools?
 - b. secondary schools?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

(1) No. The figure of \$18,875 is the expenditure per student FTE for WA Government schools as outlined in the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services 2015*. This figure provides a means to compare government expenditure per student FTE for government schools across all States and Territories in Australia.

(2) The per-student expenditure figure includes items such as school direct expenditure paid centrally (e.g. regional teacher housing and insurance), central overheads, depreciation, a notional payroll tax estimate and a notional User Cost of Capital, which is calculated at 8% on the written-down value of the Department's asset base of approximately \$11.4 billion.

(3) The Productivity Commission has not yet published a per student figure for 2014-15.

(4) The average allocation that has been directly provided to Western Australian public schools for 2015 through the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM) as at 20 March 2015 was \$10,572.

This average allocation is based on funding provided directly to schools on 20 March 2015 taken from the February 2015 student census. The allocation includes the per-student amount as well as the additional loadings for Aboriginal students, students with a disability, English as an additional language and social disadvantage, the enrolment-linked base allocation, school locality allocation and targeted initiatives.

The allocation does not include school incurred costs and central overheads which are paid centrally by the Department, or any charge relating to capital expenditure or payroll tax. The allocation is not comparable to the Productivity Commission expenditure per student FTE.

(5) (a) The average allocation for primary schools through the SCFM as at 20 March 2015 was \$8,997. The allocation includes the same elements as in the response to Question 4. The allocation does not include school incurred costs and central overheads which are paid centrally by the Department, or any charge relating to capital expenditure or payroll tax. The allocation is not comparable to the Productivity Commission expenditure per student FTE.

(b) The average allocation for secondary schools through the SCFM as at 20 March 2015 was \$10,879. The allocation includes the same elements as in Question 4. The allocation does not include school incurred costs and central overheads which are paid centrally by the Department, or any charge relating to capital expenditure or payroll tax. The allocation is not comparable to the Productivity Commission expenditure per student FTE.



Minister for Education