

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Department of Education

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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

2) Provide evidence to substantiate the statement that the current per-child cost of provision at a community kindergarten with only 10 enrollees is more than double the cost of provision of kindergarten services at public schools.


Answer:

In 2018, the allocation per Kindergarten student in a public school is \$5 694. This includes \$4 745 State funding and \$949 allocation from Commonwealth universal access funding for the additional four hours. This compares with \$13 424 per Kindergarten student at a community kindergarten that has only 10 enrolments.

Resources committed by the Department of Education to support the operations of a community kindergarten with 10 students include:

- salaries for the teacher (0.7 FTE) and the education assistant (0.5 FTE) – a fixed amount costing \$103 592 in 2018;
- operating grant of \$13 865 – based on a sliding scale according to student numbers; and
- linked school support of \$16 780 – a fixed amount to offset the cost of administrative and professional support (for example, curriculum oversight, professional learning, policy advice, administrative support and school psychology services).

The total of the above resources is \$134 237, which is \$13 424 per student in a group of 10.


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01/08/18

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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

3) With respect to the funding for administration support to community kindergartens, as I understand it, that is provided as administrative support to the linked school. What is the allocated FTE amount?

Answer:

Funding for administrative support provided to schools that are linked to a community kindergarten is based on:

- 0.1 FTE of a Level 1 officer for day-to-day administrative and enrolment matters; and
- 0.1 FTE of a teacher to offset the cost of professional support to community kindergarten staff, which includes professional learning, curriculum advice, performance management, policy advice and school psychologist services.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

4) Provide a breakdown of how many teachers and EAs are employed to provide services to community kindergartens and, of those, a breakdown as to how many are permanent employees of the department?

Answer:

Employee Type	Headcount	
	Total	Permanent
Teachers	33	21
Education Assistants – Mainstream	26	22
Education Assistants –Special Needs	2	0
Aboriginal Islander Education Officer	2	2

- Information sourced from Department of Education's Human Resource Management Information System as at 26 June 2018
- The total figures include fixed-term and permanent staff, including staff on leave
- In most cases staff are part time resulting in a higher head count than FTE Six community kindergartens have greater than 1 teacher FTE and one has greater than 1 EA FTE



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

5) How much money did the federal government contribute to support students with disability for the 2017–18 year?

Answer:

Year	Commonwealth contribution (\$ million)
2017	55.95
2018*	45.09

* The 2018 estimate has been based on the information that was provided to the Department of Education by the Commonwealth in November 2017 and the November 2017 student cohort. The 2018 funding will be reviewed as a part of the Commonwealth's mid-year economic and fiscal outlook and this may result in an adjustment to the 2018 estimate figure.

Due to the introduction of a new Commonwealth funding model and changes to the disability funding methodology in 2018, the Commonwealth's contribution to support students with disability can only be provided on a calendar year basis.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

6) Provide a list of organisations that deliver a similar environment and sustainability service to students, and professional development service to teachers as the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre.

Answer:

Examples include:

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions;
- Perth Zoo;
- Kings Park & Botanic Garden;
- South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare;
- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre; and
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Fisheries).



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