

Catholic Schools NSW response to Question on Notice from ‘Inquiry into measurement and outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools’ Public Hearing on 8 October 2019

Question on Notice

Question on Notice per the transcript, page 10:

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: That is the extent of the documentation there. Can you provide on notice any additional accountability that was given under the arrangements with the State Government for that provision of money in 2018?

Response

In relation to the 2018 grant funding received from the State government under the NSW Education Act 1990, Catholic Schools NSW, as funding authority on behalf of its 550 Catholic systemic schools met a number of financial accountability requirements as required by government (both Commonwealth and State) and various regulatory bodies, such as NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

CSNSW is the funding authority for both Commonwealth and State general recurrent grant funding under the Australian Education Act 2013 and the NSW Education Act 1990 respectively. CSNSW pools funding from both governments and deploys this funding under a single needs-based funding arrangement for the benefit of schools in its system, following the principles under the *National Education Reform Agreement 2013*. Reporting by school on the general recurrent grants deployed reflects the apportionment according to the overall split of grant funding received from each government (in 2018, this was 78% Commonwealth and 22% State). Other components of State and Commonwealth funding such as special purpose grants and capital grants may change the % share of funding from each government for an individual Catholic systemic school.

Accountability requirements due annually in relation to the general recurrent grants received by CSNSW, are listed below.

	Financial Accountability Requirement	Required by	Availability
1.	Financial Accountability statement for Commonwealth Government, in 2 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Acquittal for total expenditure of general recurrent grants received in 2018, signed by an independent auditor b) a break-down of Commonwealth government grants into to the loadings for six types of disadvantage and under the Australian Education Act (Note that as Commonwealth and State grants are deployed under the same needs-based funding arrangement, a 	Australian Government Department of Education (AGDoE)	Available upon request to AGDoE

	break-down for the State grants is also prepared by CSNSW.)		
2.	<p>Financial Accountability statement for State Government, in 3 parts:</p> <p>a) Acquittal for total expenditure of general recurrent grants (in 2018 also referred to as “Per Student funding”) received for 2018, signed by an independent auditor</p> <p>b) Acquittal of census figures provided to NSW DoE for the purposes of receiving funding in 2018, signed by an independent auditor</p> <p>c) Certification of compliance with Section 83C of NSW Education Act 1990, signed by CSNSW as the funding authority (statement made in relation to receiving funds for the 2019 year)</p>	NSW State Department of Education (NSW DoE)	Available upon request to NSW DoE
3.	<p>Financial Questionnaire</p> <p>This is a detailed form of financial data (over 60 unique items) in the format of a Statement of Performance and Statement of Financial Position.</p> <p>This includes the specific amount of recurrent grants and capital grants from each of the State and Commonwealth governments for each school in the system.</p> <p>The Financial Questionnaire data must be drawn from independently audited financial statements (see item below).</p>	Australian Government Department of Education (AGDoE)	Available upon request to AGDoE
4.	<p>My School financial data</p> <p>This is a prescribed format of financial data which shows Net Recurrent Income Per Student and Capital Expenditure sources of funding, reported across all sectors.</p> <p>This includes the specific amount of recurrent grants from each of the State and Commonwealth governments for each school in the system.</p>	ACARA (Provided to AGDoE, who passes this to ACARA.)	Public information, available on the My School website: https://www.myschool.edu.au/
5.	<p>Annual Information Statement (AIS) including financial data.</p> <p>This includes a prescribed set of financial data for entities registered with ACNC, in the format of a Statement of Performance and Statement of Financial Position.</p> <p>The Annual Information Statement data is mapped from Financial Questionnaire data.</p>	Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC). These are provided to AGDoE, who passes these to ACNC.	Public information, available on the ACNC website: https://www.acnc.gov.au/

	This includes the total amount of government grants for each school in the system.		
6.	<p>Audited Financial Statements</p> <p>The Financial Questionnaire data must be drawn from independently audited financial statements.</p> <p>ACNC requires audited financial statements to be published on the ACNC website.</p>	<p>AGDoE and ACNC</p> <p>These are provided to AGDoE, who passes these to ACNC for publication.</p>	<p>Public information, available on the ACNC website: https://www.acnc.gov.au/</p>
7.	<p>Annual School Reports</p> <p>These are required to include school financial information based on the data provided in the Financial Questionnaire.</p>	<p>NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public information, as schools must make this available publicly and they are published on individual school websites. • These reports are also submitted to NESA and kept on their record.