

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 17 June 2019

Subject: Expenditure on classroom support in primary schools

From: Member for Blain

To: Minister for Education

Agency: Department of Education

Number: 7.10

Question: For the past three years, what is the amount that has been spent on additional classroom support in primary schools? Additional to the teacher.

Answer:

- Students in mainstream schools with a diagnosed disability, and who require substantial or extensive educational adjustments to maximise their access to the curriculum, are eligible for the centrally funded Special Education and Support Program (SESP). Table 1 shows total SESP funding to primary schools by financial year from 2016 to 2019.
- Further funding is available for short-term emergency support through the Emergency Extreme Behaviours Funding (EEBF) program, to deliver targeted and specific intervention strategies and programs for students with high level behavioural, social or emotional needs. Table 2 shows total EEBF funding to primary schools by financial year from 2016 to 2019.
- The funding provided through SESP and EEBF is in addition to the student needs-based funding schools receive each year, and the \$1000 allocated for every full-time equivalent effective enrolment in mainstream schools to meet the costs of delivering support for students with additional needs.
- Schools decide how best to use the funding available to support the needs of their students. Examples of expenditure might include:
 - special education teachers or classroom support staff
 - access to additional specialist services i.e. school counsellors, speech therapists and play therapists
 - professional learning to meet identified needs in the school
 - resources and programs to support the learning needs of students, identified through educational adjustment plans.

Table 1 – SESP funding to primary schools* by financial year

Year			
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
\$4 511 424	\$4 548 200	\$4 462 616	\$13 522 240

* Includes schools in remote areas offering Transition to Year 12

Table 2 – EEBF funding to primary schools* by financial year

Year			
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
\$326 998	\$329 189	\$206 927**	\$863 114

* Includes schools in remote areas offering Transition to Year 12

** To 30 March 2019