

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 532**  
**Asked on 19 May 2004**

MR MULHERIN asked the Minister for Education and the Arts (Ms Bligh) -

QUESTION:

Will she detail how the Federal Budget will benefit State education in the Mackay/Whitsunday region?

ANSWER:

In its 2004-05 Budget the Commonwealth Government maintains its financial support for existing programmes in state schools. Funding announced in the Federal Budget reflects indexation increases only and does not introduce any new programmes.

In contrast, the Federal Budget continued the Commonwealth policy of shifting resources to non-state education. This policy will only get worse under the new funding package proposed by the Commonwealth.

In the first year of the current funding agreement (2001-2004), state schools nationally received 36.66 per cent of commonwealth Government funding (63.34 per cent to non-state schools). The end of the new agreement in 2008 estimates state schools to receive 31.89 per cent (68.11 per cent to non-state schools) – a drop of 4.77 per cent.

In per capita terms, students in non-state schools will be funded by the Commonwealth at more than four times that of state school students. By 2008, non-state students will receive \$5218 per student as compared to \$1241 per state school student.

State schools continue to be funded at 8.9 per cent of the Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) for primary and 10 per cent of the AGSRC for secondary when the minimum for non-state schools nationally is 13.7 per cent of the AGSRC.

The lowest rate of Commonwealth Government funding to Catholic schools nationally during the next quadrennium is 56.2 per cent and under the current agreement the minimum funding rate of Queensland independent schools is 26.2 per cent of the AGSRC.