

Independent Reasonable Assurance Report to the Members of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority ('ACARA')

Background

The following entities (the 'Reporting Entities') have submitted financial data to ACARA in relation to Australian schools:

- NSW Department of Education
- Victoria Department of Education and Training
- Qld Department of Education
- SA Department for Education
- WA Department of Education
- Tasmania Department of Education
- Northern Territory Department of Education
- ACT Education Directorate

Entities providing school education independent from government education authorities collectively referred to as "Non-Government Schools" – via their reporting obligations to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. These include:

- Independent Schools
- Schools administered by the following Catholic Education Commissions:
 - Catholic Schools NSW
 - Catholic Education Commission of Victoria
 - Queensland Catholic Education Commission
 - Catholic Education South Australia
 - Catholic Education Western Australia
 - Tasmanian Catholic Education Office
 - Catholic Education Office Northern Territory
 - Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

The Education Council requires the Reporting Entities to submit financial data for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 to ACARA so that the data can be presented on the *My School* website in accordance with the reporting methodology developed by the Finance Data Working Group ("FDWG") and disclosed within the website ("the Methodology"). The Methodology, as approved by The Education Council, sets out the reporting requirements for the Reporting Entities for the collection and disclosure of this financial data ("Reporting Requirements").

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We have been engaged by ACARA to conduct a reasonable assurance engagement relating to the Reporting Entities' compliance , in all material respects, with the Reporting Requirements as set out in the Methodology.

We have performed certain assurance procedures on the financial data listed in the data fields set out in Appendix A to this report ("Financial Data").

Opinion

In our opinion, the Financial Data for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 in the Full Data Set provided to ACARA on 28 February 2019 submitted by the Reporting Entities and collected, aggregated, uploaded and disclosed by ACARA, complies, in all material respects, with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements *ASAE 3100 Compliance Engagements* ("ASAE 3100") issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The Board of ACARA and the Reporting Entities' Responsibility for Reporting

The Board of ACARA is responsible for the collection, aggregation, upload and disclosure on the *My School* website of the financial data received from the Reporting Entities in accordance with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology. The Reporting Entities are responsible for reporting complete and accurate financial data to ACARA for the schools in each of their jurisdictions in accordance with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and apply Auditing Standard ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements* in undertaking this assurance engagement.

Our Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion as to whether the Financial Data for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 in the Full Data Set provided to ACARA on 28 February 2019 submitted by the Reporting Entities and collected, aggregated, uploaded and disclosed by ACARA, complies, in all material respects, with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology. ASAE 3100 requires that we plan and perform our procedures to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether, the Financial Data for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 in the Full Data Set provided to ACARA on 28 February 2019 submitted by the Reporting Entities and collected, aggregated, uploaded and disclosed by ACARA, complies, in all material respects, with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology.

An assurance engagement to report on the Reporting Entities compliance with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the compliance activities and controls implemented to meet the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the identification of risks of material non-compliance with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology.

We checked that the Financial Data is reported by Reporting Entities for all schools that are included in the listing of schools that was provided to Deloitte by ACARA.

Our procedures in relation to government schools included testing of the working papers prepared by each State and Territory Department of Education (each referred to as a separate 'jurisdiction') that formed the basis of the financial data reported to ACARA for presentation on the *My School* website. Our procedures included testing that each jurisdiction's *My School* working papers:

- Reconciled in aggregate to the Department's central General Ledger;
- Reconciled, for material components of income and expenditure, to the relevant underlying books and records ('source records') of each jurisdiction for a sample of schools (selected judgementally) and in total (where practicable);
- Included all material amounts relating to the provision of school level education services;
- Excluded material amounts that are specifically excluded under the Methodology and which do not relate to the provision of school level education services; and
- Applied methods of allocation of income and expenditure to schools that are in accordance with the Methodology.

Our procedures in relation to Non-Government schools (excluding Catholic systemically funded schools) included testing, on a sample basis, that the aggregated data set prepared by ACARA:

- Agrees to the information reported to the Department of Education and Training per the Financial Questionnaire; and
- Complies with the Reporting Requirements set out in the Methodology.

Our procedures, in relation to Catholic systemically funded schools, specifically included testing on a sample basis, that the Reporting Entity working papers:

- Agree to the information reported to Department of Education and Training per the Financial Questionnaire; and
- Complies with the Reporting Requirements set out in the Methodology.

We provide no opinion in relation to schools that do not appear on the list of schools provided to us by ACARA.

Use of Report

This report has been prepared to assist ACARA in determining the compliance of the Financial Data with the Education Council reporting requirements and will be displayed on the *My School* website, for which ACARA are responsible. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Inherent Limitations

In performing our procedures, we relied on the accuracy and completeness of the underlying books and records maintained by each Reporting Entity from which the Financial Data has been extracted. Therefore, we did not perform any procedures on these underlying books and records to test their accuracy or completeness. Accordingly, we do not provide any opinion as to the accuracy and completeness of those books and records. These books and records included:

- Department general ledgers
- Individual school returns/ledgers
- Information collected via the Department of Education and Training Financial Questionnaire for non-government schools and system authorities
- Records maintained outside Department general ledger systems including: Payroll source systems, other source systems, various excel databases maintained either within the Department and/or within other Government Departments.

Our assurance procedures were limited to forming an opinion as to whether the Financial Data provided by the Reporting Entities and collected, aggregated and disclosed by ACARA has been prepared in accordance with the Methodology.

The Financial Data on which we are forming an opinion is limited to the data fields set out in Appendix A to this report as disclosed in the Full Data Set provided to ACARA on 28 February 2019 ('Full Data Set'). We have performed no procedures in relation to the upload and presentation of the financial data on the *My School* website <https://www.myschool.edu.au>. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for and provide no opinion in relation to:

- a) any changes to the Financial Data made subsequent to us providing the Full Data Set;
- b) any inconsistencies in the Financial Data displayed on the website and the Financial Data provided by us to ACARA in the Full Data Set; and
- c) any other data or disclosure beyond the data fields set out in Appendix A.

Furthermore, because of the inherent limitations of any evidence gathering procedures and limitations in the responsible parties' internal control frameworks, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. An assurance engagement is not designed to detect all instances of non-compliance with the Reporting Requirements, as defined by the Methodology, as assurance procedures are not performed continuously throughout the period and the procedures performed in respect of compliance with Reporting Requirements as defined by the Methodology are undertaken on a test basis. A reasonable assurance engagement throughout the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 does not provide assurance on whether compliance with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology will continue in the future. The opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Chartered Accountants
Dated, 28 February 2019
Sydney

APPENDIX A – Financial data fields

Our engagement procedures and opinion relate to the data fields set out in the following table, being the total value for each data field only. We have not performed procedures on any other data fields that may appear on the website (including the per student data, any aggregated data or any graphical representations).

Recurrent income 2017	Total \$'000
Australian Government recurrent funding	
State/Territory Government recurrent funding	
Fees, charges and parent contributions	
Other private sources	
Deductions	
Income allocated to current capital projects	
Income allocated to future capital projects and diocesan capital funds	
Income allocated to debt servicing (includes principal repayments and interest on capital loans)	
Total net recurrent income	

Capital Expenditure 2017	Total \$
Australian Government capital expenditure	
State/Territory Government capital expenditure	
New school loans	
Income allocated to current capital projects	
Other	
Total capital expenditure	