



National School Resourcing Board's review of state and territory compliance with section 22A of the Australian Education Act for the 2023 funding year

Australian Government Response

The Australian Government welcomes the National School Resourcing Board's review of state and territory compliance with section 22A of the *Australian Education Act 2013* for the 2023 funding year.

The Government welcomes the Board's findings that all jurisdictions were compliant with their requirements for non-government school funding and six states and territories (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory) were compliant with their requirements for government school funding in 2023.

The Government notes the Board's findings that Victoria and the Northern Territory were not compliant with required funding contributions for their government sectors, and that Victoria's mitigating circumstances were considered reasonable.

Victoria

Victoria reported a shortfall of 1.67 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), or approximately \$219 million, for its government sector resulting from the difference between expected and actual student enrolments and demographics. The Board found Victoria's mitigating factors reasonable.

The Government considers no compliance action is required in relation to Victoria for the 2023 funding year.

The Northern Territory

The Northern Territory reported a funding shortfall of 1.64 per cent of the SRS, or approximately \$16 million, for the government sector, from underspends due to acute teacher shortages. The Board acknowledged the Northern Territory had set aside funding for staffing costs, which could then not be expended, and efforts to explore different workforce models to address critical shortages. This includes the role of teaching support and allied health professionals in the future.

The Government notes the Board identified an ongoing trend of shortfalls over the last 4 years and recommended further action to ensure the Northern Territory can demonstrate measurable progress towards consistently meeting its funding obligations.

The Government also recognises the unique circumstances of the Northern Territory, as reflected in the Commonwealth's additional investment in the Northern Territory through the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA).

The Australian Government Department of Education will work with the Northern Territory to improve its reporting to ensure full reporting of eligible funding and to support demonstration of measurable progress towards meeting its funding obligations.

Better and Fairer Schools Agreements (BFSA) and BSFA - Full and Fair Funding

The Australian Government has reached agreements with every all state and territory to put all government schools on a pathway to 100 per cent of the SRS through the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA) and the BSFA – Full and Fair Funding 2025-2034. These Agreements replace current bilateral agreements used to support section 22A compliance reporting from 2025.

The 2024 funding year will be the final year of reporting using bilateral agreements under the previous National School Reform Agreement.

The Government would like to thank all those who contributed to the Review, with particular thanks to the Board Deputy Chair, Professor Bronwyn Fredericks, and Board members, Professor Janet Clinton, Ms Valerie Gould, Professor John Firth, Professor Lee Anne Perry AM, and Professor Andrew Whitehouse.

