

Independent Assurance Practitioners Compliance 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
- ACT Education Directorate
- Northern Territory Department of Education
- Queensland Department of Education and Training
- SA Department for Education and Child Development
- Victoria Department of Education and Training
- WA Department of Education
- Tasmania Department of Education Tasmania

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

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

The Education Council requires the Reporting Entities to submit financial data for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 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”).

We have been engaged by ACARA to conduct a reasonable assurance engagement relating to the Reporting Entities’ compliance with the Reporting Requirements as measured by 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”).

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 Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion as to whether the Financial Data complies with the Reporting Requirements of the Methodology, in all material respects. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3100 *Compliance Engagements*, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, to express a conclusion whether, in all material respects:

- a) The Reporting Entities prepared their respective Financial Data in accordance with the Methodology;
and
- b) ACARA has collected, aggregated and disclosed the Financial Data received from the Reporting Entities in accordance with the Reporting Requirements as defined by the Methodology, noting that schools that have closed or merged with a head entity school in the year will not be reported or disclosed separately by ACARA. Head entity schools that have merged with other schools in the year will be reported.

We checked that 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.

ASAE 3100 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

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 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.

These procedures have been undertaken to form a conclusion as to whether the Reporting Entities and ACARA have complied, in all material respects, with the Reporting Requirements set out in the Methodology, for the Financial Data for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. We provide no conclusion 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 22 February 2018 ("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. The conclusion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Independence

In conducting our engagement, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Conclusion

In our opinion, the Financial Data for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 in the Full Data Set provided to ACARA on 22 February 2018 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.



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Chartered Accountants
Dated, 22 February 2018
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 2016	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 2016	Total \$
Australian Government capital expenditure	
State/Territory Government capital expenditure	
New school loans	
Income allocated to current capital projects	
Other	
Total capital expenditure	