

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000036

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 63

Review of ACARA

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Who determines the person who undertakes the review?

Mr Cook: The department does that.

Senator O'NEILL: And how did you determine that, that it was Mr Grahame Cook who would do this job?

Mr Cook: I think that was part of an RFQ we put out, or a request for quote.

Senator O'NEILL: And did you have many respondents?

Mr Cook: I would have to take that on notice, Senator—I am not sure; I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator O'NEILL: Would you be able to indicate—if you can, on notice—the people who did express interest and the criteria in which Mr Cook was determined the most suitable candidate?

Mr Cook: Sure; happy to take that on notice.

Senator O'NEILL: And the cost of undertaking that review.

Mr Cook: Happy to do that as well.

Answer

The method for procurement was a request for offer/quotation. The associated documentation was released to five suppliers on 30 October 2014.

The proposal from Graeme Cook Consulting was the only valid proposal received. It was assessed as meeting the requirements of the evaluation criteria (as per the offer/quotation in the following table).

No.	Criteria
1	<p>Skills and experience required to deliver the services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrated understanding of the project requirements - relevant experience and performance of similar projects - ability to engage effectively with high-level education stakeholders to identify and draw out information pertinent to the project - ability to prepare written reports that clearly identify key findings and make recommendations that reflect a nuanced understanding of the Australian school education sector and Commonwealth-state relations <p style="text-align: right;">Weighting: 40 %</p>
2	<p>Sectoral knowledge and experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in-depth understanding of the Australian school educational landscape and the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders - in-depth understanding of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's (ACARA's) operations, roles, functions and stakeholders <p style="text-align: right;">Weighting: 30%</p>
3	<p>Commonwealth-state relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deep understanding of, and experience with, Commonwealth-state relations in school education <p style="text-align: right;">Weighting: 30%</p>
4	<p>Pricing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all costs, fees, allowances and charges associated with the implementation and completion of contract obligations <p style="text-align: right;">Not weighted</p>

The department has allocated up to \$100,000 to conduct the Review of ACARA.