

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0082_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Discretionary Grants

What discretionary grants does the department administer? Please provide a list of all discretionary grant programs, the amount expended to 25 November 2013, amount not allocated and the status of the program. "In relation to discretionary grants: • How many discretionary grants programs are managed by this Department? • Can you provide us with a list of those programs? In each case how are they administered? • In relation to each of these programs is there an industry advisory body – or some other form of advisory body – that is involved in the assessment process for grant applications? • Please provide details of the membership of any advisory bodies. • Were these bodies in place before the election – have there been any changes since the election? • Has there been a pause, or freeze or suspension, in the release of funding for grants under these programs – if so, what are the details? • What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause? • If there has been a pause, did this pause include grants that had been advertised but not yet finalised? • Did this pause include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified? • If so, is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from the Government? • Since the election has there been any change to these assessment processes and decision making arrangements?"

Answer

1) What discretionary grants does the department administer? Please provide a list of all discretionary grant programs, the amount expended to 25 November 2013, amount not allocated and the status of the program. "In relation to discretionary grants:

- (a) How many discretionary grants programs are managed by this Department? There are approximately 77 discretionary grant programs managed by the department. The list and the amount expended to 30 November 2013 is shown in the table at [Attachment A](#).
- (b) Can you provide us with a list of those programs? In each case how are they administered? Refer [Attachment A](#).
- (c) In relation to each of these programs is there an industry advisory body – or some other form of advisory body – that is involved in the assessment process for grant applications? There are advisory bodies for:
 - a. Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships – State and Territory Selection Panel.

- b. Enhancing the Training of Mathematics and Science Teachers program – Representatives from industry were included in the one-off selection panel which made recommendations to the Minister on the allocation of grants
 - c. Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education programme – The Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) makes recommendations to the Minister for Education on the allocation of grants, fellowships and awards. The SAC is assisted in the assessment process by three standing committees and a peer assessment process which provides the committee members with an initial assessment of the quality of applications..
- (d) Please provide details of the membership of any advisory bodies.
- a. Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships – The State and Territory Selection Panel comprises at least one representative from each of the education sectors in that State/Territory. The relevant Modern Languages Teachers' Association is invited to nominate a representative to participate in the selection process.
 - b. Enhancing the Training of Mathematics and Science Teachers program – Not Applicable
 - c. Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education programme –
 - i. Membership of the SAC includes:
 1. Professor Margaret Gardner AO (Chair) – Vice-Chancellor and President, RMIT University (incoming Vice-Chancellor, Monash University, September 2014)
 2. Professor Tim Brailsford - Vice-Chancellor and President, Bond University
 3. Professor Jane den Hollander - Vice-Chancellor and President, Deakin University
 4. Professor Deborah Terry – Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The University of Queensland (incoming Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University, February 2014)
 5. Professor Judyth Sachs – Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Macquarie University
 6. Professor David Sadler – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education), University of Tasmania
 7. Ms Jeannie Rea – President, National Tertiary Education Union
 8. Vacant (student representative). In 2013, occupied by Ms Jade Tyrrell, President, National Union of Students
 9. Vacant (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative)
- (e) Were these bodies in place before the election – have there been any changes since the election?
- a. Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships - No
 - b. Enhancing the Training of Mathematics and Science Teachers program – not applicable
 - c. Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education programme – Yes the SAC was in place prior to the election. There has not been any change since the election.
- (f) Has there been a pause, or freeze or suspension, in the release of funding for grants under these programs – if so, what are the details? The Government has not paused grants. The Government assessed all grant spending for consistency with Government priorities and commitments. This has included

an additional step in agencies' grants processes requiring the Minister for Finance to be consulted prior to any grant spending to assess the grant's alignment with Government priorities. All the background work in relation to these programs, such as managing existing contracts, and the general management of these programs continued in the normal way.

- (g) What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause? Stakeholders were advised that the Government was assessing all grant spending for consistency with Government priorities and commitments and that there was a requirement for additional approval by the Minister for Finance, to ensure that assessment can take place, before any relevant grant spending can proceed. All background work in relation to these programs, such as managing existing contracts, and the general management of these programs continued in the normal way.
- (h) If there has been a pause, did this pause include grants that had been advertised but not yet finalised? The stocktake of discretionary grants considered all discretionary grant spending programs where there is discretion at either ministerial or department level on the amounts, recipients and timing of the spending. This included grants where decisions had been advertised but not finalised.
- (i) Did this pause include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified? If so, is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from the Government? The stocktake of discretionary grants considered all discretionary grant spending programs where there is discretion at either ministerial or department level on the amounts, recipients and timing of the spending. This included grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified.
- (j) Since the election has there been any change to these assessment processes and decision making arrangements? No

Attachment A

Outcome	Name of Grant Program	Expenses to 30 November 2013 \$'000
Outcome 1	Community Support Program	74,808
	Recognised Prior Learning	46
	Budget Based Funded Services	49
	LDC - Capital Grants - Exceptional Circumstances	420
	Early Years Quality Fund	-
	Child Care Accessibility Fund Grants	-
	Program Evaluation and Research	-
	Australian Early Development Index	1,201
	NQA establishment	-
	National Inclusion Support Subsidy Provider (NISSP)	2,028
	Inclusion Support Program	27,146
	Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth	150
	New Early Learning and Care Centres	320
		170
Outcome 2	Framework for Open Learning Program	
	National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare	3,719
	Youth Engagement	3,506
	Short Term Emergency Assistance	-
	Improving Educational Outcomes	-
	Creative Young Stars	838
	Teach Next	204
	Grants in Aid	166
	Grants and Awards	-
	Australian Students Prize	-
	Quality Outcomes Other	463
	Schools National Projects	36
	Quality Teacher Program	6,669
	Civics and Citizenship	620
	Funding for Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	7,250
	Funding for Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	4,116
	Community Festivals	-
	Student Resilience and Wellbeing	375
	National Action Plan Literacy and Numeracy	195
	ACT Centre for Quality Teaching and Learning	1,000
	Funding for National Philanthropic fund to support schools facing disadvantage	5,000

Outcome	Name of Grant Program	Expenses to 30 November 2013 \$'000
	Foundation for Young Australians - Safe Schools Coalition Australia	1,100
	School Support for Students with Autism: Positive Partnerships	1,389
	National Trade Cadetships	-
	Online Diagnostics	255
	Australian Baccalaureate	-
	NBN Enabled Education	4,498
	ABC Digital Education	-
	Review of Schools Funding	106
	Maths and Science Participation	3,450
	Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships	960
	School Improvement Support Funding - Independent	-
	Supporting the Australian Curriculum Online (SACOL)	-
	School Education Reforms - ACT Association of Independent Schools	-
	Teach for Australia programme	-
	School Improvement Support Funding - Catholic	-
	Initiatives Supporting Innovation in Teacher Education (InSITE)	-
	Australian Vocational Student Prize	-
	Digital Education Revolution Project Pool	-
	Trade Training Centres	1,415
	More Support for Students with Disabilities	-
Outcome 3	Commonwealth Grants Scheme	2,559,464
	Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program	58,102
	Promotion of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education	2,682
	Endeavour Awards	-
	Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals Program	430
	Professional Services Development Program	-
	International Student Mobility Program	-
	Regional Links Program	-
	Increasing the profile of Australia's International Education Sector	-
	Higher Education Special Projects	500
	Australian Maths & Science	22,675

Outcome	Name of Grant Program	Expenses to 30 November 2013 \$'000
	Partnership Program	
	Improving the Quality of Maths and Science Teachers	-
	Diversity and Structural Adjustment	-
	National Institutes	86,107
	Education Investment Fund - Education	44,150
	Education Investment Fund - Research	-
	Commonwealth-Australian National University strategic relationship	-
	National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) - continuation	-
	Funding for the Australian website of 'The Conversation'	-
	Higher Education Research Promotion	-
	Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) Program	-
	AsiaBound Grants Program	-
	Fullbright Scholarships	-