

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0473_14

Senator Carr asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 134

Question

Grants

Senator KIM CARR: I go back to the last question. You were asked how many grants the minister has signed off, and I think you actually said the minister has announced grants for \$50 million. Do I understand the distinction there? Mr Griew: He decided as well. He approved. Senator KIM CARR: All of them. Are you sure about that? Mr Griew: We can check. Senator KIM CARR: Could you do that? My memory fades on these matters, but I have a recollection that I might have signed a few off before the caretaker period. Mr Griew: We will check if there are any. Senator KIM CARR: I get the impression—in fact, I am advised—that I may well have signed these as well, but you may correct me if my advice is incorrect. Mr Ritchie: We will check. Senator KIM CARR: I know there is a distinction between signing off and announcing, isn't there? Mr Griew: We think that Minister Pyne approved these grants and then announced them. We will check

Answer

The grants were approved twice.

Senator the Hon Kim Carr, the then Minister for Higher Education, approved \$50 million in funding grants for 17 projects with an Indigenous focus under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program on 2 August 2013. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education advised successful applicants on 5 August 2013.

Following the election the Government implemented a process of review of funding decisions including assessment by the Department of Finance to ensure that they were consistent with Government priorities and commitments.

At the conclusion of this process Minister Pyne approved the grants proceeding.