

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research and International**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0039\_14  
Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Demand-Driven system for University funding**

With regard to the review of the demand-driven system of university funding: a. Please explain the process of drafting the terms of reference. b. When were the Minister's office provided with a copy of the terms of reference? Did they make any changes to the draft? c. Was anyone else consulted in the preparation of the terms of reference? d. Please provide details of how the reviewers are engaged – are they contracted as consultants? If so, what is the length of their contract and remuneration. e. Were any other reviewers considered or shortlisted? f. Can you explain the Department's involvement in the review, and what kind of support, secretariat or otherwise, it provides, including: How many staff, what levels, what their role is, how they were chosen, who do they communicate with, do they have any particular expertise, for example economic expertise? g. Are any other Departments assisting with the review? Has the Department of Treasury or Finance had any involvement in providing or requesting information? h. What information have the consultants requested to date from the Department, or from other Departments? Anything on fee deregulation? i. Have any external consultants been engaged to assist with the review? If so, who/how much/what for? j. What is the timeline for the review, including for conducting consultation and providing draft and final reports? k. Why is there such a short period of time for submissions? l. What kind of modelling has the Department performed or commissioned that will be provided to the reviewers as part of the review process? m. Given one of the reasons given for holding the review is "meeting the skills needs of the economy", what is the interaction of the review secretariat or reviewers with AWPA?

**Answer**

- a) The terms of reference were drafted by the department in consultation with the Minister's Office.
- b) 25 October 2013. Yes, the Minister's Office made changes to the draft.
- c) Yes.
- d) The reviewers are contracted by the department until May 2014. Dr Kemp is being paid \$1117 for each day of work and Mr Norton is being paid \$922 for each day of work.
- e) Not by the department.
- f) A team in the Higher Education and Research Group is providing secretariat support to the review and coordinating the provision of information and analysis to the reviewers. These officers do not work full time on the review. The team is made up of five staff members with a broad range of skills including economic expertise.
- g) The department is not aware of any other departments having assisted with the review up to 9 December 2013.

h) The reviewers have requested a broad range of information about issues such as:

- applications and offers
- enrolments
- attrition and completion rates
- mode of delivery
- campuses
- demand and supply trends

They have not requested information about fee deregulation.

i) No.

j) Submissions to the review are due by midday 16 December 2013. The draft report is due on 27 January 2014 and the final report is due in mid-February 2014.

k) To allow the reviewers sufficient time to consider the submissions.

l) The reviewers have been provided with projections about the demand for higher education into the future.

m) It is up to the reviewers to decide who they consult and how.