

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0098_14
Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning

- (i) Which department is funding this review?
- (ii) Has the department been required to offset the costs of the review?
- (iii) If so, how have these costs been offset, and from what program have offsets been found?
- (iv) Have funds been put aside to cover the cost of the review? How much is the review expected to cost?
- (v) The Government has stated that the Productivity Commission will provide the report by October 2014. What is the latest date that the report will be publically released?

Answer

- (i) Refer to Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee Hansard 20 November 2013, pages 52–53.
- (ii) No
- (iii) Not applicable
- (iv) The Productivity Commission has advised the following: ‘The main cost of inquiries is staff costs. The Productivity Commission does not allocate specific amounts to its inquiries because resource deployment throughout the course of an inquiry is highly flexible depending on the work load of each inquiry/study at any point in time. The cost of each inquiry is published in the Commission's annual report after completion of the inquiry.’
- (v) The Productivity Commission has advised the following: ‘The Commission will provide a final report to government by 31 October 2014. For inquiries, the timing of the public release of the final report is a decision of government, not the Commission. However, under the *Productivity Commission Act 1998* (section 12), inquiry reports must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 25 sitting days of that House after the day on which the Minister receives it.’