

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0147_14

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Question

Fraud Allegations – Bellfield College

1. On what date did the Department first become aware of fraud allegations, relating to millions of dollars of missing money, at Bellfield College in Sydney?
2. What action was taken from that date onwards?
3. Was this the first time that allegations of financial impropriety had been raised with the Department regarding that school?
 - i. If not, please advise what concerns were raised, and how the Department responded.
4. When were these allegations first brought to the attention of Education Minister Christopher Pyne?

Answer

1. 30 July 2013.
2. Following an assessment of the information made available to the department in liaison with the relevant authorities, a forensic audit into the use of Commonwealth funding at the school has been commissioned.
3. Yes.
4. Minister Pyne was first formally briefed by the department in October 2013.