

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 53

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 14/03/2017

Topic: VET approved course list

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye asked:

1. What involvement did the Department have in compiling the list of approved courses?
2. Was the Department asked to contribute?
3. What opportunities did the Department of Arts have to assist with the development of the VET approved course list?
4. What does the Department see as its role in the intersection between education and arts?
5. Is there regular communication between the departments on this issue?

Answer:

1. The VET approved course list was compiled by the Department of Education and Training. Representations were made by officers from the department to officers from the Department of Education regarding the impact that the changes would have on two of the national elite arts training organisations.

The Arts Division and several peak arts organisations are monitoring the implementation of the VET reforms. As courses are still being considered for inclusion on the Eligible Course List a full picture is not yet available.

The Department of Education is undertaking a review of the Eligible Course List and Loans Cap and submissions are sought from providers, students and governments. The arts training providers will have an opportunity to present a case to add their courses.

Officers from the department are in contact with the Department of Education to monitor the changes as any issues arise.

2. No. See response to Q1.
3. See response to Q1.
4. The Department of Communications and the Arts is active in supporting the career pathways of young Australians wanting to enter the professional arts and cultural sector. It plays a lead role in delivering elite training in the performing arts for Australia's most talented young people. The Arts Division closely monitors the implementation of the national curriculum in the arts.
5. There is periodic communication between officers of both departments when needed to support policy advice to Ministers.