

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000234

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Research Infrastructure Review

Question

"In relation to the Research Infrastructure Review:

- a) The Department's website says that "The Review is expected to deliver its findings to the Minister at the end of May 2015". Given this timing, when and how will a decision be made about NCRIS funding for 2016 17?
- b) Was there any public announcement when the Review commenced? If so, please provide a copy of the announcement.
- c) How were stakeholders informed about the review?
- d) Who has been consulted during the course of the review and what form did these consultations take?
- e) The review panel did not issue any public consultation documents, such as an issues or options paper. Please explain why no consultation paper was issued.
- f) Was there any capacity for public submissions to the review? If not, why not?
- g) Please explain why the Research Infrastructure Review is not listed on the Department's "Current Reviews and Consultations" web page.

Answer

- a) Decisions on future funding are a policy matter for the Government.
- b) The Minister announced the imminent commencement of the review in his speech to the National Press Club on 6 August 2014.
- c) Stakeholders were informed via a letter from the review chairman inviting participation in the national consultations. Details of the review are also on the department's website.
- d) Key stakeholders in state governments, research intensive universities, publicly funded research agencies and research infrastructure providers have been consulted through face-to-face meetings with the review panel held in every state capital and Canberra.
- e) The review panel took the position that an intensive face-to-face consultation strategy would be the most effective manner to inform its thinking.
- f) Public submissions have not been sought due to the review panel's position on its consultation strategy. However, public submissions are not prohibited and any public submissions will be reviewed by the department and, if relevant, passed to the panel.
- g) The Research Infrastructure Review is now listed on the department's "Current Reviews and Consultations" web page.