

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000602

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Successful Service Skills Organisations (SSO)

Question

Successful Service Skills Organisations (SSO) were announced on 27 Jan 2016.

- Was the new system due to be in place by 1 January 2016?
- What was the reason for the delay?
- How many applications were received?
- Was a short-list compiled? How was this list compiled?
- Was industry support one of the key criteria for applications?
- Did all successful applications have industry support by way of letters of support?
- If yes, how many letters of support did each successful applicant have? Did this outnumber other unsuccessful applications? Were there any cases where unsuccessful applications had more industry support than successful applications? Please provide details for each SSO.
- If no, how did were they then deemed to be appropriate for consideration?

Answer

1. Yes.
2. The system was operational. The announcement was delayed due to contract negotiations with the successful applicants.
3. 27.
4. Yes. As part of the stage 1 assessment of capability and capacity, 11 applicants were invited to clarify and verify their claims against the criteria.
5. Yes, industry support was considered as part of the evaluation of shortlisted applicants.
- 6.-8. The Expression of Interest process is ongoing. No comment can be made on this matter.