

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0042_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Higher education reforms - working parties

The Department has established a number of working parties to look at detailed implementation of the Government's higher education reforms. Can you provide me with details of those? What working parties have you established? What will each of them do? Who is on each of the working parties? What are their timelines to complete their work? Will they consult widely in the higher education sector? Who will they consult? By what means? Will they report publicly? If not, who will they report to?

Answer

The Government established three working groups to provide advice on the higher education reforms:

- the Legislation and Financing Working Group
- the Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group
- the Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group.

The **Legislation and Financing Working Group** has provided advice to the Government on a number of important components of the higher education package that will help develop the details of the reforms and the process for implementation. This advice includes the rate at which the Government funds bachelor level places at non-university higher education institutions and sub-bachelor places at higher education institutions.

The **Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group** has provided recommendations to the Government on policy and implementation issues as they relate to eligibility for non-university higher education institutions to access Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding. The Working Group also provided advice on how to implement proposed changes while minimising unnecessary red tape.

The **Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group** is responsible for providing advice on ways to encourage the higher education sector to maximise innovative funding options for infrastructure.

Legislation and Financing Working Group Members

- Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor, La Trobe University (Chair)
- Professor Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor, Australian National University
- Professor Barney Glover, Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Sydney
- Professor Debbie Terry, Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University
- Professor David Battersby, Vice-Chancellor, Federation University Australia
- Ms Claire Field, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) – resigned in early July and was replaced by Dr George Brown, Director, ACPET
- Mr Martin Riordan, Chief Executive Officer, TAFE Directors Australia (TDA)
- Professor Rufus Black, Master of Ormond College, University of Melbourne
- Professor Peter Rathjen, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group members

- Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair), Chair, TEQSA Advisory Council; Chancellor, University of Western Sydney; Chair, NSW Public Service Commission Advisory Board
- Emeritus Professor Alan Robson AO, Member of TEQSA Advisory Council; Chair, Higher Education Standards Panel; former Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia
- Professor Greg Craven, Member of TEQSA Advisory Council; Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University; Board Member, Universities Australia
- Ms Karen Thomas, Member of TEQSA Advisory Council; Senior Litigation & Managing Partner, Fisher Jeffries
- The Hon Phil Honeywood, Member of TEQSA Advisory Council; National Executive Director, International Education Association of Australia
- Professor Ian O'Connor, Chair, Advancing Quality in Higher Education Reference Group; Vice-Chancellor, Griffith University
- Dr Don Owers, Chair, Council of Private Higher Education (COPHE); Principal and CEO, Tabor College Adelaide

Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group members:

- Mr Philip Marcus Clark AM
- Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC

The Legislation and Financing Working Group and the Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group reported to the Government in July 2014.

The Legislation and Financing Working Group and the Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group consulted widely and received input from a wide range of sources in developing their advice.

The Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group is expected to report to the Government by April 2015.

The Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group will consult with a number of individual universities in 2014 and will hold two stakeholder workshops in early 2015.

It is a matter for Government as to whether the advice is publicly released.