

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0162_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & all agencies: Reviews

1. Since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a) the date they were ordered
 - b) the date they commenced
 - c) the minister responsible
 - d) the department responsible
 - e) the nature of the review
 - f) their terms of reference
 - g) the scope of the review
 - h) Who is conducting the review
 - i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j) the expected report date
 - k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.

2. For any review commenced or ordered since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 - c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 - d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - g) If yes, for each, who selected them
 - h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - i) If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - i. If yes, did they see or provide input to a short list
 - ii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iii. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - iv. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

3. Since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, what reviews are on-going?
 - a) Please list them.
 - b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

4. Since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.

5. Since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.

6. Since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.

7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

8. What reviews are planned?
 - a) When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c) When will government respond to each review?
 - d) Will the government release each review?
 - i. If so, when?
 - ii. If not, why not?

Answer

Consistent with previous answers on this topic, a review is considered to be a formal examination of an area of government policy undertaken by an agency or a person chosen by the Government, and to which a government response expected. Reviews produced as a component of work for Cabinet committees, inter-Departmental committees, Council of Australian Government (COAG) working groups and internal committees are excluded.

Since the Additional Estimates in February 2014:

(1) and (2) See Attachment A

(3) Three reviews are ongoing

a. Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group

Cost to 31 May 2014 \$27,521

b. Review of the Australian Curriculum

Cost to 31 May 2014 \$75,547.84

c. National Evaluation for the Low SES National Partnership and the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership

Cost to 31 May 2014 \$592,781

(4) No reviews have been stopped, paused or ceased.

(5) No reviews have concluded

(6) N/A.

(7) N/A.

- (8) A review of My School is planned
- a) 17 June 2014
 - b) 31 July 2014
 - c) The timing of any response to reviews is a matter for government
 - d) Release of reviews is a matter for government

1) Reviews commenced since the Additional Estimates in February 2014:	Trade Training Centres (TTCs) in Schools Program – Independent Review 2014
a. the date they were ordered	12 December 2013
b. the date they commenced	17 April 2014
c. the minister responsible	The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Assistant Minister for Education
d. the department responsible	Department of Education
e. the nature of the review	Independent Review of the Trade Training Centres in School Program
f. their terms of reference	<p>Independent Review Rationale The independent review into the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program will provide advice to the Government about what is being delivered and what could be delivered in trade training facilities funded under the Program.</p> <p>Independent Review Objectives The independent review of the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program will assess the current</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. utilisation of training facilities established under the Program and identify opportunities for increased or improved utilisation including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanded use of facilities beyond school-based training and • establishing the facilities as a regional resource to improve access to students. 2. training outcomes under the Program against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • program objectives • original funding proposal expectations • contractual obligations • industry and employer expectations. 3. role of industry and employers in the training delivery models and identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • models of best practice • options for strengthening industry and employer links • opportunities for enhanced involvement leading to better training outcomes. <p>Independent Review Methodology The independent review will be conducted using a combination of desk top analysis and site visits as required. The desk top analysis will be the primary method for completing the audit review and will involve analysis of a range of documentation including Program guidelines, funding proposals, funding agreements and reports. This part of the analysis will also involve some liaison with relevant persons at the trade training centres via telephone as required. Some site visits will be undertaken to assist with establishing models of best practice and to understand the practicality of providing training on the ground.</p>

	<p>The department will provide project material, reference material and assistance as required.</p> <p>Expected Independent Review Outcomes It is anticipated that the independent review report will assist the Government in determining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the return on the Government's investment in the Program as at December 2012 • options for more effective utilisation of the facilities established under the Program • options for improved training outcomes • options for enhancing the role of industry and employers in the training delivery. <p>Independent Review Timeframe A final report is expected to be provided to the Commonwealth Assistant Minister for Education and the department by the end of 2014.</p>
g. the scope of the review	The review will focus on data from the 219 TTCs that were operational in 2012. Also see f. above
h. Who is conducting the review	Ms Patricia Scott
i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review	Two officers provide secretariat support (1 x EL2 and 1 x APS 6) with other staff at various levels from across the cluster providing input from time to time. The officers do not work full-time on the review. Their time is the equivalent of 1.6 full time staff, members. However, staff load will fluctuate depending on requirements and workload over the review period.
j. the expected report date	By end 2014
k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs	\$80,000 which will be met using existing departmental funding
l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public	To be determined
2) For any review commenced or ordered since the Additional Estimates in February 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?	Yes
a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names	Ms Patricia Scott
b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent	N/A

Attachment A

c. If yes, for each what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to each cost item	\$80,000 is currently budgeted for costs associated with the independent review and these costs will be met using existing departmental funding.
d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement	Conducting the independent review and providing a report
e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.	No
f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them	Questions relating to what contact was had with the Minister or Minister's office are matters for the Minister, not the department.
g. If yes, for each, who selected them	Department of Education
h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,	No
i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was	N/A
i. If yes, did they see or provide input to a short list	N/A
ii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	N/A
iii. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department	N/A
iv. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	N/A