

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0204\_15**

**Senator O'Neill provided in writing.**

**Question**

**STEM Ministerial Advisory Board**

In relation to the Government's election commitment to establish a STEM Ministerial Advisory Board:

- a) For what reason has the Government decided not to establish this Board?
- b) How is the Ministerial Advisory Group on teacher training "working with State governments to ensure more STEM subjects are given a greater focus with a view to increasing the extent to which they become compulsory in senior secondary years"?

**Answer**

- a) In order to reduce costs and duplication of effort, the Government decided to expand the terms of reference of the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group to include specific references to STEM subjects.
- b) The Government will undertake consultations with states and territories on giving STEM subjects a greater focus through the usual forums: the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee and the Schools Policy Group.