

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

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

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0251\_15**

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

**Question**

**Questions on Notice asked at Additional Estimates**

In relation to each answer to education portfolio Questions on Notice asked at Additional Estimates:

- a. On what date was each answer prepared by the Department first submitted to the Minister's office?
- b. On what date did each answer prepared by ACARA and AITSL first submitted to the Department or the Minister's office in relation to their responsibilities?
- c. Can the Department provide an explanation for why all answers were received on 26 May 2014, when they were due on 24 April 2014?
- d. For each question where the answer – or part of the answer – was not provided on the basis of the public interest:
  - i. Was an assessment of the public interest undertaken? How?
  - ii. Who made the final decision?

**Answer**

- a. Most answers to Questions on Notice were initially provided to the Minister's office, in hard copy, on the afternoon of Thursday, 3 April. The remaining answers were first provided within two or three weeks of the bulk provision.
- b. All but one of ACARA's answers were provided to the Minister's office on 3 April. The final one was provided on 7 April. The AITSL answer was provided on 3 April.
- c. Following provision of answers to the Minister's office, a number of queries were raised and considered by the department. As Ms Paul explained to the Committee at the hearing on Wednesday, 4 June 2014, Hansard page 8, there were a number of questions that 'interacted' with each other and so it made sense to progress all questions together. In other words, the decision was taken not to provide individual answers to the Committee until all queries had been resolved and all answers settled. Unfortunately, this took longer than expected due to staff absences on leave (Easter, Anzac Day and school holidays) and Budget preparations.
- d. No answer or information was withheld on the basis of public interest immunity.