

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0282_15

Senator Lines asked on 4 June 2014 , Hansard page 12

Change of spelling to the word 'program'

Question

Senator LINES: I am seeking some guidance on where to ask this particular question. It has come up in childcare. The word 'program' has been changed from ending in just the letter 'm' to 'me'. Is that a question you can ask or should I ask when we get to childcare? Ms Paul: It is probably across-the-board, so I think it is okay to ask it here. I am not quite sure what the answer is, to be honest. We probably are just reflecting a form, which is a legitimate form. But if you like I will take it on notice and find out whether there was anything which we said internally about it. It would be simply internal. But I think it would be broader than early childhood. Senator LINES: Let me give you some background about it and make sure you are clear on the question. My understanding is that the governments style manual makes no explicit ruling on the spelling. In fact, it uses the single 'm'. I would be interested to know who asked for the change in the childcare documents. I can see the childcare people at the back looking with interest. So maybe they know. How many staff were involved in pursuing that change, because the change is in every single document where ever the word 'programme' occurs and the cost of that. Ms Paul: I think it is probably beyond early childhood. I think it is across portfolio, Senator. I will take it on here and I will take it on notice. CHAIR: Senator O'Neill. Senator O'NEILL: On the same topic, can you confirm that this happened after the election? Ms Paul: Sure. I am happy to take it on notice. Senator O'NEILL: Also when and why it happened. Have you been given this direction as a department and from who? Ms Paul: I don't think so. My recollection is not. It is an internal thing, but let me check it out for you. I am happy to do so. Senator O'NEILL: If we could get some details about how many entries were actually updated and the decision making around prioritising this spelling change, which seems quite remarkable to me. Ms Paul: These days these things are quite easy, of course. But I'm happy to take it on notice and tell the story as much as we can piece it together.

Answer

Following the announcement of the outcome of the 2013 Federal Election, the department updated its internal Style Guide to reflect the language and style of the incoming Government's policy material.