

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000340

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 89

Appointments to AITSL board

Question

Senator O'NEILL: I want to get it clear. Has the board been reconstituted in a different form?

Mr Cook: Reconstituted, Senator? The constitution indicates the membership of the board. The minister has approved the change to the constitution, as previous ministers have in the past.

Senator O'NEILL: And the removal of a teacher representative is part of that change. Were all of the appointments to the board on the department's short list provided to the minister?

Mr Cook: You are after advice to the minister.

Senator O'NEILL: Yes.

Mr Cook: We do not normally give advice at the estimates hearings, Senator. I am happy to take it on notice. We gave, as we normally do, an extensive list of potential applicants for these positions, as we do for any board to any minister.

Senator O'NEILL: So there is the list of the department. Can you table that list?

Mr Cook: Sorry?

Senator O'NEILL: Would you table that list?

Mr Cook: We would not normally table that list. That is advice to government.

Senator Ryan: I will take it on notice on behalf of the minister.

Mr Cook: As we have normally done, we can tell you the number of people that were actually—

Senator O'NEILL: So how many were there?

Mr Cook: I will have to take it on notice. I am sorry, but I do not know.

....

Senator O'NEILL: Are there any people appointed by the minister who were not on your short list who now serve on the board?

Mr Cook: I will take that on notice. We do not normally provide information about advice we provide to the minister.

....

Senator O'NEILL: When was that short list provided to the minister?

Mr Cook: I will have to take it on notice. It would have been months ago.

....

Senator O'NEILL: Could you take me through a rough guideline to the process of when you received the request from the minister? How long does it take to put together such a list?

Mr Cook: Well, it would take us a week, normally, to put together a brief for something like that. I am sorry, but I will have that on notice. I do not have that information available.

Senator O'NEILL: When the short list was requested, how long it took you to put together the list and when you provided that list to the government.

Mr Cook: I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer

Matters regarding the composition, nominations and appointments to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Board are formal decisions for the Australian Government. The briefing process to formalise decisions of Government is confidential and consistent with normal business practices of Government cannot be disclosed.