

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000388

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 109

Contingency Reserves

Question

Senator O'NEILL: The contingency reserve contains almost \$15 billion across the forwards?

Mr Cook: That is a Finance or Treasury question. I do not deal with contingency reserves in the department.

Senator O'NEILL: Are there any programs in the education portfolio that have been included in the contingency reserve?

Senator Ryan: That is a question for Finance and Treasury.

Mr Cook: Not to my knowledge. I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

There is a long standing practice of successive governments not to disclose individual items in the Contingency Reserve (CR). Disclosing these items would be contrary to the public interest due to the sensitive nature of items and the fact that they may disclose Cabinet deliberations.