

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000389**

Senator Wright, Penny asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 112

***Changes to funding agreements due to outcomes of High Court decision***

**Question**

Senator WRIGHT: Can you tell me how many agreements under the education portfolio have been affected in this manner.

Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, I will have to take that on notice. We had to go through all of them. In fact, our legal people would have to give me that advice, but I am happy to take it on notice.

**Answer**

Spending programmes in the Education and Training portfolio were assessed by the Australian Government Solicitor as part of a whole-of-government review process carried out following the High Court's decisions in *Williams v Commonwealth* [2012] HCA 23 and *Williams v Commonwealth* [2014] HCA 23. Changes to funding agreements with recipients of Australian Government funding are undertaken during the lifetime of a spending programme for a variety of policy and practical reasons. These changes have regard to a range of considerations, including developments in the background law such as the *Williams* decisions.