

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000395

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 113

Good to Great Schools contract

Question

Senator O'NEILL: So the entire \$22 million goes to the two different agencies that I just named?

Dr Atkins: It goes to Good to Great Schools.

Senator O'NEILL: They have partners, though—DataWORKS Educational Research and the National Institute for Direct Instruction—or is that their title in total?

Mr Cook: I will take that on notice. Our contract is with Good to Great Schools, and that is the \$22 million. The national institute—I think Good to Great Schools is part of that. I think that is right. But they provide other services as well. But the contract we have got is with Good to Great Schools.

Senator O'NEILL: So you will give the whole \$22 million to them and then they will determine how it is spent?

Mr Cook: That is correct.

Senator O'NEILL: Do you have any more detailed oversight of it than that?

Mr Cook: We get the annual plans and annual reports and all the requirements they are supposed to do under the contract, and that money is spent for teacher release and things like that. There are 300 teachers involved in the program, and their professional development training and all those sorts of things—that is what the money is actually expended on.

Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide me with a detailed account of that?

Mr Cook: We can certainly take that on notice and provide you with information.

Answer

Oversight of the programme includes:

- Departmental representation on the governance body for the programme
- Evaluation of the programme by an independent consultant
- The Implementation Plan, Establishment Report, 2015 Progress Report, 2016 Progress Report and in 2017 the Final Report required under the Grant Agreement with Good to Great Schools Australia (GGSA)
- Regular contact with GGSA.

All \$22 million appropriated for this programme has been allocated to GGSA as a result of a national, open competitive expression of interest process. GGSA has subcontracted National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) for the provision of the Direct Instruction (DI) programme and DataWORKS Educational Research (DataWORKS) for the provision of the Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) programme.