

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000457**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

***Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching contract***

**Question**

In regards to QILT:

- (a) Have or will you put the survey functions out to open tender?
- (b) Who in the department is responsible for the implementation of QILT?
- (c) What has been achieved to date?
- (d) What is the timeline for the establishment of QILT?
- (e) Is the establishment of QILT contingent on the passage of the Government's higher education package through the Parliament? Or can it happen regardless? What is the Government's intention in this regard?

**Answer**

- a ) The department commenced an open tender process to select the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) administrator in June 2014. The tender closed on 11th July 2014. As a result of the tender process, the department has selected the Social Research Centre (SRC) as the QILT administrator for the first contract period (2014–2017). The tender outcome was published on the AusTender website on 8 October 2014.
- b) The Economic and Market Analysis Branch, Research and Economic Group, holds responsibility within the department for the QILT surveys, including the University Experience Survey, the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) and Employer Satisfaction Survey, and QILT contract management. Responsibility for development of the QILT website is held by the Student Information and Learning Branch, Higher Education Group.
- c) Since the announcement of the QILT package in the 2014–15 Budget:
  - i. The SRC has been selected through an open tender process as the independent administrator for the QILT for the first contract period (2014–2017).
  - ii. The University Experience Survey (UES) 2014 has been conducted by Graduate Careers Australia under a standalone contract, including trial administration of the survey with a selection of non-university higher education institutions. Results of the survey were published in March 2015.
  - iii. A new GOS has been developed by the SRC following consultation with higher education institutions and employer groups. Pilot testing of the GOS was undertaken in October-November 2014 and April-May 2015. A longitudinal graduate outcomes survey (GOS-L), which will measure graduate employment outcomes up to three years after course completion, has also been designed for trialling in 2016.
  - iv. The Employer Satisfaction Survey has undergone further development and testing, including trial administrations in October-December 2014 and April-June 2015.
  - v. An initial version of the QILT website has been developed and undergone testing with students and the higher education sector.

- d) All QILT surveys will be fully established by February 2016, subject to successful development of the Employer Satisfaction Survey.
- e) The establishment of QILT is not contingent on the passage of the Government's higher education package through the Parliament.