

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. SQ15-000462

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Office of Learning and Teaching

Question

In regards to the decision to outsource the Office of Learning and Teaching:

- (a) What are the Government's reasons for abolishing the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT)?
- (b) Does the Government believe that the OLT was not performing adequately? What were your problems with its performance and the outcomes it produced?
- (c) Does the Government believe that the OLT was not providing outcomes relevant and useful to the sector? Can you explain how these outcomes fell short?
- (d) Or was the abolition of the OLT largely a cost-cutting measure? How much does it save the Government to abolish it – in terms of operating and related costs?
- (e) How will the new Institute produce more satisfactory outcomes and play a more useful role?

Answer

(a) - (c) and (e) The decision to establish a new institute was taken by the Government in the budget context. The Government announced on 12 May 2015 that it would be inviting bids from universities to run a new institute to promote high quality teaching and learning in Australian universities. The Government also announced that the new institute will allow the sector itself to lead the promotion of excellence and creativity in learning and teaching.

(d) There will be a save of \$16 million over the forward estimates.