

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000608

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

AMEP

Question

1. The program has been moved from the Department of Industry to the Department of Education and Training, why is that?
2. How much notice was given to the sector and the providers of the AMEP program about this change? Do you think that is enough notice?
3. Does the Government consider this program part of the broader Settlement Services suite of measures? If so, why isn't this program located in the Department of Social Services, with Settlement Services?
4. Is the Government/Department currently undertaking a review of the program? a. When is that due to be completed. b. Will the Government make the review public? c. If not, why not?

Answer

1. The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), as part of Skills, moved from the Department of Industry to the Department of Education and Training on 21 December 2014 as part of Administrative Arrangement Order changes.

The move recognises the crucial place skills training has in the life-long education journey for all Australians, particularly recent migrants and humanitarian entrants.

2. AMEP service providers were notified of the change following the introduction of new Administrative Arrangement Orders in January 2015.

The change of department had no immediate impact on AMEP service providers, as key departmental contacts and documentation have not changed.

3. AMEP provides English language and literacy skills to newly arrived migrants and humanitarian entrants to support participation in Australian society both socially and economically.

While the English language and literacy skills taught through AMEP are an important element of settlement into Australia, it is also a crucial first step in the pathway to training, employment and sustainable participation in the economy.

4. The AMEP evaluation has been completed and is publicly available at www.education.gov.au/amep