

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000715

Senator Pratt, Louise provided in writing.

Improvement of AMEP Program

Question

The Ruddock and Senator Fierravanti-Wells report states that AMEP program should be improved. Was the department told that some findings of the Fierravanti-Wells / Ruddock report would be actioned in regard to citizenship requirements but not others? Has the department produced or sought advice on what level of English is required that improves integration? Social cohesion?

Answer

The Department of Education and Training was consulted on the reforms to citizenship requirements but not on the Ruddock and Senator Fierravanti-Wells report.

The department has not produced research on the level of English required to improve integration or social cohesion.

During the discussion of the reforms to AMEP, English language levels, which determine AMEP eligibility, were considered and the current levels were deemed to best meet the program's objective; to improve the English language proficiency of students to enable them to participate socially and economically in Australian society. The following stakeholders were consulted during the drafting of the AMEP reforms:

- community members
- AMEP service providers
- relevant Commonwealth departments.