

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research and International

Department of Education Question No. ED0040_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Review of Higher Education Standards

- a. What is the status of the Review of Higher Education Standards?
- b. The Panel was due to provide advice to the Minister towards the end of this year, when did the Panel provide this advice?
- c. Has the Panel recommended any changes to the Higher Education Standards?
- d. What is the process for making changes to the standards?
- e. When will the standards be released for sector-wide comment?

Answer

- a. The Higher Education Standards Panel (the Panel) is preparing to release the draft standards for comment in early 2014. The sector has been kept informed of developments through stakeholder consultations and the regular release of Panel communiques which are available on the Panel's website – www.hestandards.gov.au.
- b. The Panel has not yet made any recommendations to the Minister about changes to the standards.
- c. Consistent with section 58 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Act 2011*, changes to the standards may be made by the Minister for Education following receipt of draft standards from the Panel and after consultation with the Council consisting of Ministers for the Commonwealth and each state and territory with responsibility for higher education, and with TEQSA.
- d. The Panel is engaged in an iterative consultation process with the sector and has released preliminary draft standards for comment as well as meeting with stakeholders on approximately 50 occasions during 2013. This approach to consultation with the sector will continue in 2014 when the full set of draft standards is released for comment.