

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0474\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Dept & All Agencies: Freedom of Information (FOI) Disclosure Log**

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

1. For the purposes of meeting its obligations under 11C of the Act, does the Department or Agency: a) Maintain a webpage allowing download of documents released under section 11A (direct download)? b) Require individuals to contact the Department or Agency to ask for the provision of those documents (request for provision)? c) Facilitate to those documents in a different manner (if so, specify).
2. If the Department or Agency has moved from a system of meetings its 11C obligations by direct download, to a system of meeting those obligations by request for provision, provide the following information: a) The dates for which documents were made available for direct download, and the dates for which documents were made available through request for provision; b) The total number of direct downloads of documents released under 11A the Departmental or Agency website; c) The total number of requests for provision to documents that had been directly received, and how many had been processed by [date]? d) What was the average FTE allocated to monitoring incoming email, collating and forwarding documents providing under a request for provision? i. What was the approximate cost for salaries for the FTE staff allocated to this task?
3. Has the Department or Agency charged any for access to a document under section 11C(4)?
4. If so, please provide the following information in a table: a) On how many occasions charges have been imposed; b) The amount charged for each document c) The total amount charged; d) What is the highest charge that has been imposed.

**Answer**

**Department of Education**

In accordance with the FOI Act, the department publishes details of how documents released under the FOI Act can be obtained on its website. Documents are provided directly in response to requests, and, if a request is made for an accessible version, an accessible version is created and uploaded on to the website. The website, including information on how to obtain FOI documents, is accessible in accordance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (version 2) (WCAG 2.0). The department has not charged for access to documents from the disclosure log.

The department does not keep statistics on the average FTE allocated to processing FOI requests or responding to Disclosure Log requests. FOI requests are handled by a team that is responsible for a number of functions, including FOI.

### **Australian Research Council**

The Australian Research Council has provided the following response:

- 1a) No.
- 1b) Yes.
- 1c) Not applicable.
  
- 2 Not applicable.
  
- 3. No.
  
- 4. Not applicable.

### **Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency**

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency has provided the following response:

- 1a) No.
- 1b) Yes.
- 1c) Not applicable.
  
- 2. Not applicable.
  
- 3. No.
  
- 4. Not applicable.

### **Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies**

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ATSIS) has provided the following response:

- 1. AIATSIS maintains an FOI disclosure log on its website, and includes links to or copies of released documents, except where privacy considerations would preclude this approach.
  
- 2. Not applicable.
  
- 3. No.
  
- 4. Not applicable.

### **Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Agency**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Agency (ACARA) has provided the following response:

- 1a) With one exception, ACARA lists documents released under FOI, which members of the public can then request. ACARA has recently uploaded some

documents (score equivalency tables) to its national assessment program website and if members of the public request these documents, they are re-directed to this website.

1b) Subject to the exception noted above, yes.

1c) Subject to the exception noted above, no.

2. With one exception, ACARA always provides documents released under FOI on request. ACARA has not moved from a system of meeting its 11C obligations by direct download to a system of meeting those obligations by request for provision. Consequently, questions (a) to (d) are not applicable.

3. No charges have been applied to date.

4. Not applicable.

### **Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership**

The Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership is not subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.