

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0487_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies: Commissioned reports

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How many reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency?
 - a. Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

One report has been commissioned since the June 2014 Budget Estimates.

Research on school autonomy in Australia

1. Educational Transformations Pty Ltd was commissioned by the Commonwealth to investigate the links between school autonomy and learning outcomes for Australian students. This project will form part of an international endeavour initiated by the Ministry of Education in Israel and will involve six other nations including Australia, Canada (Alberta), China (Hong Kong), England, Finland and Singapore.
 - Date commissioned: 1 October 2014.
 - Date report handed to Government: the final milestone is due to the Department on 12 June 2015.
 - Date of public release: it is not known at this time whether the report will be released publicly.
 - Terms of Reference: the scope of this report has been negotiated with Educational Transformations Pty Ltd.
 - Committee Members: there are no committee members.
2. The estimated cost for this report is \$50,000 (GST inclusive). In addition, departmental support for this report is being provided by an EL2.
3. The department received the first milestone of this report on 14 November 2014. The Government does not intend to provide a response to this report.