

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0512_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & its agencies: Fee for services

Since September 7, 2013: 1. Have any existing services provided by the department / agency moved from being free to a user-pay service? Have any additional fees been placed on existing services? If yes please provide a list and include: 2. Name of the fee and a short description of what it covers. 3. How much is the fee (and is it a flat fee or a percentage of the service). 4. The date the fee came into place. 5. Were any reviews requested, commenced or complemented into the benefits and drawbacks of attaching the fee to the service? If yes, please detail and provide a copy of the review. 6. What consultation was carried out before the fee was put into place? 7. How was the fee put into place (e.g. through legislation, regulation changes etc)? 8. What justification is there for the fee? 9. test

Answer

The Department of Education: No

The Australian Research Council: No

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority: No

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: No

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership:

1. Yes.
2. 360° Reflection Tool.
3. \$380 (GST inclusive), flat fee.
4. 1 January 2014.
5. No, it was always intended for this voluntary service to move from a free service (during the trial) to a paid service (for full implementation).
6. Consultation occurred with the AITSL Board and governing committees who represent AITSL's stakeholders.
7. At point of registration. The move to a fee for service for the 360° Reflection Tool was a decision made by management during the development of the tool. This decision was made due to factors such as sustainability of the service and uncertainty of ongoing funding. Consultation with stakeholders occurred throughout this process through the governance group representing school leaders, employing authorities and professional associations.
8. To cover the costs of the service provision.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency:

1. Yes.
2. A fee for an application for internal review of one or more decisions under section 184 under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act).
3. The fee is \$1,000 for each application to review one or more decisions.
4. 1 January 2014.
5. No.
6. TEQSA previously consulted in relation to the development of the Determination of Fees No. 1 of 2012 and details of the consultation arrangements undertaken are set out in the explanatory statement to that instrument. Given that the fee is a small fee for an activity TEQSA had not been in a position to undertake until the fee was introduced, TEQSA did not consider it necessary to undertake further consultations.
7. A legislative instrument made under section 158 of the TEQSA Act.
8. TEQSA was established as a cost recovery agency. In previous fee instruments an internal review fee was unnecessary as TEQSA was not making decisions under delegation that were capable of being internally reviewed. TEQSA commenced making decisions on applications for initial accreditation or renewals of accreditation, as well as decisions about conditions on accreditation, under delegation by individual Commissioners on 31 October 2013. Accordingly, it was necessary to ensure that costs of conducting internal reviews are reflected in TEQSA's fee instrument. TEQSA considered that a fee of \$1,000 is appropriate on the basis that it (a) reflects TEQSA's best estimate of the cost of conducting the review based on limited data available and having regard to the fees already charged for the application under review, (b) is consistent with the fee charged by the Australian Skills Quality Authority for applications to reconsider decisions and ASQA is the most comparable agency for TEQSA's regulatory activities and (c) is unlikely to operate as a disincentive to seeking internal review, given that it is a substantially smaller fee than those charged for other activities.