

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0703_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research consultations

(a) Which area of the Department is responsible for managing the Boosting the Commercials Returns from Research consultation on behalf of the education portfolio?

(b) Is there a secretariat for this process? If so:

(i) In which department and division is it located?

(iii) How many staff does it have?

(iii) How many staff are from each of the following departments or agencies: Department of Education; Department of Industry; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of Finance; Treasury; the Australian Research Council; CSIRO; and other agency or department (please specify)?

(c) How is this consultation process being coordinated among the 15 portfolios that are identified as contributing to the \$9.2 billion in Federal Government spending on science, research and innovation in the 2014-15 budget tables?

(d) How many stakeholder consultations are being held as part of this process, and where are they being held?

(e) How long is each consultation session?

(f) What is the agenda for the stakeholder consultations? Within this, how much time is allocated for stakeholders to express their views?

(g) Who was invited to attend each consultation session?

(h) Are the consultations open to the public?

(i) Why is there no information about consultation sessions on the Department's Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research web page?

(j) Will there be a further round of consultations after submissions close on 28 November 2014?

(k) What is the expected final product of the consultation process?

(l) Please explain how the Boosting the Commercials Returns from Research consultation relates to the Cooperative Research Centres review process.

Answer

- a) The Research and Strategy Group is the responsible area in the Department of Education.
- b) Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research is a joint strategy of the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industry. Staff from the Departments of Education and Industry support the development and implementation of the strategy.
- c) Portfolio agencies have been included in the consultation process.

- d) Stakeholder forums were held in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra. Senior Education and Industry officials have held targeted consultations with stakeholders on the discussion paper.
- e) The average forum length was 2 ½ hours.
- f) The purpose of the forums was to allow stakeholders to express their views on the discussion paper. Each session began with a short presentation to frame the issues in the discussion paper. The majority of the session was held open for discussion.
- g) Invitees included representatives of universities, peak bodies, industry and business associations, researchers, publicly funded research organisations, state and territory chief scientists and state and territory government representatives.
- h) Attendance at the forums was by invitation only. Stakeholders can consult the Department at any time.
- i) The Department's website provides access for members of the public to lodge submissions on the discussion paper *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research*.
- j) This is a matter for Government consideration.
- k) This is a matter for Government consideration.
- l) The discussion paper *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research* notes, in relation to cooperation between researchers and industry, that "the Government recently announced the start of an independent review [of the CRC programme] to ensure the programme is making appropriate and effective investments in collaborative projects that will boost Australia's productivity and international competitiveness". The two consultation processes will inform each other.