

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000832

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah provided in writing

ACARA - money to third parties

Question

Has the Authority ever released money to third parties (such as suppliers of a good or a service) without a contract and if so, why, how much and what for?

Answer

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

Most non-salary expenditure at ACARA is engaged through either a formal contract, purchase order (for example, engaging teachers to provide verbal advice at a meeting), on-going engagement through delegation (e.g. legal expenditure) or internal approval process (travel, accommodation and catering) prior to engagement of the supplier. The remaining items relate to immediate engagements in respect of work health and safety or urgent maintenance.

ACARA's Delegation of Authority, the purpose of which is to outline the delegations of authority to staff by the CEO, sets out the manner in which suppliers can be engaged. However, providing comprehensive advice about services procured and paid for without a contract would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.