

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001055**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 101

***Higher Education reforms: ANAO report***

**Question**

Senator O'NEILL: I want to return to some issues I raised this morning. The ANAO report that we discussed this morning refers to legal advice that the education department had said that the campaign around the higher education reforms that the government still has on their budget books—even though they were not able to get them through legislatively—could mean that the Australian government could be found to have engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct under section 18 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. My question is: was the minister or the cabinet or their officers ever provided with that advice or made aware of that advice?

Dr Bruniges: I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer**

- The then Minister was provided with the CEO certification for phase 1A and 1B of the campaign. This certifies the compliance of the Campaign with the *Short-term Interim Guidelines on the Information and Advertising campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies* (Guidelines).
- As part of the certification, the CEO certifies the campaign complies with the principles of the Guidelines, including principle 5 which specifies the campaign must comply with legal requirements and procurement policies.