

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001178**

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

***AMEP - streams***

**Question**

1. Why has the Department decoupled the Program's employment from its social goals?
2. Can you confirm that:
  - a. English language classes conducted within the Pre-Employment Stream have a maximum class size of 20 students and require a teacher to hold specialist TESOL qualifications?
  - b. English language classes conducted within the Social English Stream have a maximum class size of 25 students and do not require a teacher to hold specialist TESOL qualifications, or even general teaching qualifications?
3. What is the rationale for the different class sizes and teacher qualifications requirements in these two streams?
4. What is the evidence base on which the Department has determined that learning English in the social English stream is "less rigorous" and therefore the "qualifications required can be less rigorous"?
5. What ongoing monitoring and reporting processes is the government establishing to assure the public of the quality and effectiveness of the AMEP English language tuition entitlement for newly arrived refugee and migrants under the new contact arrangements?
6. The new contract requires that social English stream teachers be enrolled in TESOL teacher training courses. What provision will be made to ensure that these trainee teachers are actually attending and making progress in such a course? What provision has been made to ensure that these TESOL training courses meet quality standards?
7. The new requirements say that the social English stream will focus on "conversation". How does the Department envisage a class of 25 students who can't speak English conversing with one English speaker?

**Answer**

1. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-001144 regarding the social goals of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).
2. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000935 regarding confirmation of class sizes and teacher qualifications.
3. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000938 regarding class sizes and teacher qualifications of the tuition streams.
4. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000938 regarding the rationale for the rate of progression and teacher qualifications in the Social stream.
5. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000941 regarding ongoing quality monitoring of AMEP.
6. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000942 regarding the monitoring of teacher qualifications and quality of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) courses.
7. Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000943 regarding the delivery of Social English stream tuition.