

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0271_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Office for Learning and Teaching

For the Office for Learning and Teaching please provide:

1. The 2012-13 updated budget outcome for the Office for Learning and Teaching, and for all the programs it administers
2. Current forward estimates for 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17
3. What the breakdown of these estimates is between administered and Departmental/OLT costs?
4. Please provide an update on the status of all of your grants programs, including when the schedule for opening, closing, announcing and contracting grants projects. This should include information on commissioned projects
5. Please provide a breakdown of PELTHE funding over the forward estimate by grant program
6. Please explain where the reduction in funding in PELTHE programs listed in the additional Budget estimates is coming from (which program) and why
7. What regulatory roles does the Office for Learning and Teaching currently perform.
8. How has the OLT's workload and responsibilities changed since the publication of the Review of Higher Education regulation?
9. Has the Chief Commissioner of TEQSA, the Minister's Office, or any other Departmental or TEQSA officer discussed an expanded or changed role for the OLT in light of the Review of Higher Education Regulation?
10. Please provide an update on round 1 of the Development Grants and Seed Grants

Answer

1. The updated 2012-13 budget outcome for the Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (PELTHE) programme was \$12,863,246.

The Enhancing the Training of Mathematics and Science Teachers (ETMST) programme commenced in 2013-2014.

2. Current forward estimates for 2013-14 to 2016-17 for PELTHE are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Financial Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Estimates Administered	\$	\$	\$	\$
PELTHE	14,067,128	13,925,628	14,244,498	14,672,481

Current forward estimates for 2013-14 to 2016-17 for ETMST are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Financial Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Estimates Administered	\$	\$	\$	\$
ETMST	1,950,531	3,934,466	4,021,435	4,138,163

3. Figures in Tables 1 and 2 are forward estimates for administered costs only. There is no departmental funding in PELTHE or ETMST.
4. The OLT has 221 active grant projects including commissioned work.

The schedule of dates for the opening and closing of grants programmes are in Table 3 below.

Table 3

Innovation and Development Grants and Seed Grants	
Round 1 opening date	19 September 2013
Round 1 closing date	8 November 2013
Round 2 opening date	5 May 2014
Round 2 closing date	16 June 2014
Commissioned Projects	
Opening date	TBA
Closing date	TBA
Extension Grants	
Round 1 opening date	21 February 2014
Round 1 closing date	4 April 2014
Round 2 opening date	25 July 2014
Round 2 closing date	5 September 2014

The Minister for Education is responsible for approving grants and commissioned work on advice from the OLT's Strategic Advisory Committee. The announcement and contracting of projects will be undertaken after the approval process has been finalised.

5. PELTHE funding over the forward estimates is not broken down by sub programme.
6. The reduction in funding in the PELTHE programme listed in the additional Budget estimates, is spread evenly across grants, fellowships and awards to maintain current function with minimal impact.
7. The OLT does not have a regulatory role.
8. The OLT's workload and responsibilities have not changed since the publication of the Review of Higher Education Regulation.
9. The question seeks information on advice that may or may not have been provided to the Minister.
10. Round 1 2014 Development and Seed Grant applications were considered by the Grants Standing Committee on 12 March 2014. Those recommended for funding by the Grants Standing Committee will next be considered by the OLT's Strategic Advisory Committee which will make recommendations to the Minister for approval.