

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0319_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Reviews

1. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a) the date they were ordered
 - b) the date they commenced
 - c) the minister responsible
 - d) the department responsible
 - e) the nature of the review
 - f) their terms of reference
 - g) the scope of the review
 - h) Who is conducting the review
 - i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j) the expected report date
 - k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.
2. For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 - c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 - d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - g) If yes, for each, who selected them
 - h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - i) If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - i. If yes, did they see or provide input to a short list
 - ii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iii. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - iv. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

3. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going?
 - a) Please list them.
 - b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
4. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
5. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
6. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
8. What reviews are planned?
 - a) When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c) When will government respond to each review?
 - d) Will the government release each review?
 - i. If so, when?
 - ii. If not, why not?

Answer

In answering this question, the following definition has been used:

Consistent with previous answers on this topic, a review is considered to be a review formally requested by a minister or ministers, including the Prime Minister and to which a government response is expected.

Reviews produced as a component of work for Cabinet committees, inter-Departmental committees, Council of Australian Government (COAG) working groups and internal committees are excluded.

Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013:

- (1) Two reviews were commenced (Attachments A-1 and A-2)
 - a) Review of the Australian Curriculum
 - b) Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group
- (2) Details at Attachments A-1 and A-2
- (3) Two reviews are ongoing
 - a) Smarter Schools National Partnerships Impact Evaluation
 - b) Review of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- (4) No reviews have been stopped, paused or ceased.

- (5) Three reviews have concluded
 - a) Review of Boarding Costs for Indigenous Students at Selected Schools, December 2013
 - b) Review of the Demand Driven Funding System, 14 February 2014
 - c) The Review of the Budget Based Funding Programme, February 2014.
- (6) Details at Attachment A-3.
- (7) Details at Attachment A-3.
- (8) No reviews are planned

Reviews Commenced

1) Reviews commenced since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013:	Review of the Australian Curriculum
a. the date they were ordered	4 December 2013
b. the date they commenced	4 December 2013
c. the minister responsible	The Hon Christopher Pyne, MP, Minister for Education
d. the department responsible	Department of Education
e. the nature of the review	Review of the Australian Curriculum
f. their terms of reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Review of the Australian curriculum will evaluate the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum. • The reviewers will consider the robustness, independence and balance of the Australian Curriculum, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the process of curriculum shaping, development, monitoring, evaluation and review. ○ the curriculum content from Foundation to Year 12 for subjects developed to date, with a particular focus on the curriculum for English, mathematics, science, history and geography. • The reviewers will provide recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister for Education regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the curriculum shaping process followed by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to ensure that the curriculum is balanced and offers students an appropriate degree of choice and diversity; ii. the process of curriculum development to be followed by the ACARA for the development and revision of all future curriculum content; iii. the content in learning areas, cross curriculum priorities and general capabilities of the Australian Curriculum; iv. the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and review of curriculum content used by ACARA to ensure independence, rigour and balance in curriculum development; and • The reviewers will provide a <u>preliminary report</u> to the Commonwealth Minister for Education by 31 March 2014. The Panel will provide its final report to the Commonwealth Minister for Education by the 31 July 2014.
g. the scope of the review	See f. above
h. Who is conducting the review	Prof Ken Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly

ATTACHMENT A-1

i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review	Four officers are involved in providing secretariat support (1 x EL2, 2 x EL1 and 1 x APS6). The officers do not work full-time on the review. On 20 March 2014, this was the equivalent of two full time staff, members. However, staff load will fluctuate depending on requirements and workload over the review period.
j. the expected report date	31 July 2014 (preliminary report due 31 March 2014)
k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs	\$300,000
l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public	To be determined
2) For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 (21/11), have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?	Yes
a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names	Prof Ken Wiltshire AO, Dr Kevin Donnelly
b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent	n/a
c. If yes, for each what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to each cost item	Panel members are being paid per diem payments of \$429
d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement	Review panel member
e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.	No
f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them	Questions relating to what contact was had with the Minister or Minister's office are matters for the Minister, not the department.
g. If yes, for each, who selected them	Members were considered in accordance with the Cabinet appointments process.

ATTACHMENT A-1

h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,	Yes
i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was	Minister approved two recommendations made by the department for appointees to the Review Panel.
ii. If yes, did they see or provide input to a short list	No
iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	Minister approved two recommendations on 3 October 2013.
iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department	No
v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	N/A

Reviews Commenced

1) Reviews commenced since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013:	Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group
a. the date they were ordered	Election commitment
b. the date they commenced	Formally announced by Minister on 19 February 2014
c. the minister responsible	Minister Pyne
d. the department responsible	Department of Education
e. the nature of the review	Ministerial Advisory Group
f. their terms of reference	<p>The Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group will provide advice to the Commonwealth Minister for Education on how teacher education programmes could be improved to better prepare new teachers with the practical skills needed for the classroom.</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>Using an evidence based approach, the Group will identify common components regarded as world's best practice in teacher education with a particular focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Pedagogical approaches</i> – Ways of teaching and learning, including assessing learning related to specific areas and matched to the capabilities of students 2. <i>Subject content</i> - Knowledge and understanding of school subjects in the primary and secondary curriculum, particularly in relation to foreign languages and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, and 3. <i>Professional experience (practicum)</i> - Improved university and in-school professional experience opportunities for pre-service teachers and better support from experienced mentor teachers. <p>The Group will consider the <i>Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programs in Australia: Standards and Procedures</i> and the <i>Australian Professional Standards for Teachers</i>, as potential mechanisms to give effect to its recommendations for improvement to teacher education, as appropriate.</p> <p>In making its recommendations, the Group will identify priorities for actions to improve teacher education and suitable implementation timeframes.</p> <p>International benchmarking</p> <p>An independent consultant will be engaged to undertake evidence-based research and rigorous benchmarking of world's best practice teacher education programmes against Australia's own programmes to support the focus areas of the Group.</p>

	<p>Consultation</p> <p>The Group will undertake public consultations, inviting written public submissions and hosting up to four national meetings with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Consultations will include meeting with, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership • Universities Australia and the Australian Council of Deans of Education • Teacher employers and teacher regulatory bodies • Key representative bodies of the education sector, and • Relevant education experts. <p>Roles and responsibilities</p> <p>The Department of Education will provide secretariat support to the Group and the Associate Secretary, Early Childhood, Schools and Youth will take an observer role in the Group.</p> <p>The Group will report to the Minister for Education in mid-2014.</p>
g. the scope of the review	To provide advice to the Commonwealth Minister for Education on how teacher education programmes could be improved to better prepare new teachers with the practical skills needed for the classroom.
h. Whom is conducting the review	Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group
i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review	Four staff (1 x EL2, 2 x EL1 and 1 x APS4) are allocated to the Secretariat supporting the TEMAG work.
j. the expected report date	Second half 2014
k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs	\$230 000 is currently budgeted for costs associated with TEMAG, and will be met using existing departmental funding.
l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public	Made public
2) For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?	Yes

ATTACHMENT A-2

a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names	Professor Greg Craven (Chair), Dr Ben Jensen, Professor Field Rickards, Ms Michelle Green, Professor Kim Beswick, Professor Eeva Leinonen, Mr Trevor Fletcher, Mr John Fleming
b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent	N/A
c. If yes, for each what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to each cost item	\$230 000 is currently budgeted for costs associated with TEMAG, and will be met using existing departmental funding.
d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement	Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Members.
e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.	N/A
f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them	Questions relating to what contact was had with the Minister or Minister's office are matters for the Minister, not the department.
g. If yes, for each, who selected them	Members were considered in accordance with the Cabinet appointments process.
h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,	As above
i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was	
ii. If yes, did they see or provide input to a short list	No
iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	Appointment brief signed 10 February 2014
iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department	Yes
v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	Discussions occurred prior to signing of appointment brief

Reviews Concluded etc

5) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them (and date they concluded).	<p>Review of Boarding Costs for Indigenous Students at Selected Schools, December 2013</p> <p>Review of the Demand Driven Funding System, 14 February 2014</p> <p>Review of the Budget Based Funding Programme, February 2014.</p>
6) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.	<p>Review of Boarding Costs for Indigenous Students at Selected Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report from Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu was provided to the Government in mid-December 2013. <p>Review of the Demand Driven Funding System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report of the Review of the Demand Driven Funding System was provided to Government on 14 February 2014 <p>Review of the Budget Based Funding Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The findings of the Budget Based Funding Programme review were provided to the Government for decision on 28 February 2014.
7) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?	<p>The timing of any response to reviews is a matter for government.</p>