

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

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Education
Services
Australia

Education Services Australia (ESA)

Opening Statement

Senate Committee for Education and Employment
31 May 2018

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1. Background

Chair, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee.

As Education Services Australia has not been invited to appear before this Committee, I would like to provide some background that I hope will be helpful to Committee members.

Education Services Australia (ESA) is a not-for-profit company owned by all Australian education ministers.

The company was established in 2010 to support delivery of national priorities and initiatives in schools, training and Higher Education sectors.

ESA's objective is to combine education and technology expertise to generate and deliver national solutions that further Australia's education reform agenda and contribute to improved student outcomes, enhanced teacher impact and stronger school communities.

2. Features of the Company

a. *Strong governance*

ESA is governed by a Board of Directors comprising an independent chairperson, 5 independent directors nominated for their specific expertise and members nominated by the Australian Government, the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee (AESOC), the non-government schools sector, Universities Australia.

A biannual Letter of Expectation issued on behalf of all education ministers outlines the roles and responsibilities of ESA and sets out high-level performance expectations, strategic priorities and accountability requirements.

b. *Funding*

ESA receives no core funding from government. We are required to operate as a not-for-profit organisation generating sufficient income from commissioned projects and services to remain sustainable.

ESA revenue is earned through the delivery of government funded projects and services (85%) and subscription services offered to schools (15%).

Government funded projects are commissioned by Education Council, the Australian Government, state and territory governments and school sector authorities.

c. *Wide-ranging expertise and capabilities*

ESA's core capabilities are:

- Delivery of high quality projects and services that meet the needs of users
- Dissemination of insights, evidence and exemplars that support decision making
- Develop and maintain national education technology platforms
- Trusted, secure information management and data security

d. *Impact*

In 2017, almost 2.7m teachers, students and parents accessed materials developed and delivered through ESA projects and services.