

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000208**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

***Independent review of the Trade Training Centres in Schools Programs***

**Question**

With reference to the Government's review of the Trade Training Centre program and the letter from the review to the Minister – which is attached to the review – which states that it was a 30 day review (attached).

Also with reference to the review fact sheet on the Department's web page which states:  
"The independent reviewer was undertaken between May and October of 2014."

- a. Can the Department explain the discrepancy? And over what period of time was the review actually undertaken?
- b. The letter from the reviewed is dated 17 October 2014. Is that the time the Department received the review? When was the Minister first presented with the report? Why did it take so long for it to be released?
- c. Is the Government going to respond to the review? Has the Department commenced drafting the Government's response? When is this expected?
- d. Is the Department already implementing any of the report's recommendations?

**Answer**

- a. The independent review of the Trade Training Centres (TTCs) in Schools Program was undertaken by Ms Patricia Scott between May and October 2014 and required 30 days of the reviewer's time.
- b. The review was provided to the Hon Sussan Ley MP, then Assistant Minister for Education, on 17 October 2014. Following the appointment of a new ministry on 23 December 2014, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham assumed the role of Assistant Minister for Education and Training. The department briefed Minister Birmingham on the TTC review outcomes in January 2015. The Government wanted time to fully absorb the review findings, which included that TTCs were failing students and employers because of rushed policy with no performance benchmarks and a focus on buildings rather than student outcomes.
- c. The Australian Government has indicated it will use the review findings to ensure TTCs deliver value for taxpayers' money and value for students.
- d. The department is currently considering the improvements identified by Ms Scott. The Minister has said he will use the review's finding to ensure that the more than \$1.4 billion of taxpayer money spent better equips Australian secondary students with the skills they need to pursue their vocation of choice.