

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0111_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

National Partnership on the national quality agenda

Page 39 of Budget Paper 3 shows that funding for the National Partnership on the national quality agenda for early childhood education and care finishes in 2014-15 .

- a. Is there sufficient funding in the contingency to fund the continuation of the partnership for another full year at the current level?
- b. The review is underway, consultation has commenced and a very simple discussion paper has been released. Who was chosen to conduct the review? How was this consultancy chosen?
- c. How much is being paid to the consultancy to conduct the review? When is it due to be publicly released?

Answer

The National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care (NP NQA) is not an expiring agreement. The Australian Government has committed a further \$19.1 million for 2014-15 to support states and territories implement the National Quality Framework.

As noted in Budget Paper 3, provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for funding from 2015-16, subject to the outcomes of the 2014 Review and negotiation with the states and territories.

The Australian and state and territory governments are working together to undertake the review. The Australian Government has engaged Woolcott Research Pty Ltd (Woolcott) and Deloitte Access Economics (Deloitte) to assist with some aspects of the review.

Woolcott and Deloitte were selected following a Request for Quotation using the department's Research, Evaluation and Analysis Panel.

Woolcott was contracted to facilitate a public consultation process for the 2014 Review. The total value of the contract is \$369,765 GST exclusive.

Deloitte was engaged to undertake costing analysis. The total value of the contract for that work is \$189,750 GST exclusive.

The 2014 Review report will be provided to the Education Council (formerly Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood) in late 2014. Publication of the report is a matter for the Education Council.