

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

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

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0152\_15ED0152\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Dept & all agencies: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements**

Since 7 September 2013; 1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contact. When was it formed or created? 2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction? 3. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created? 4. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction? 5. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction? 6. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change? 7. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website? If no consultation has occurred, why not? 8. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements? If so, when? Who did he/she meet with?

## **Answer**

### **Questions 1-5 and 8**

The Department/Agencies do not keep statistics on whether contracts or agreements managed by the Department/Agencies contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy. It is unlikely there are any such contracts or agreements.

### **Question 6 and 7**

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

The Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition expired on 30 June 2014. A new Funding Agreement was not entered into. No consultation was undertaken as the Government decided that it would not provide further funding given the current fiscal environment.

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

The Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) for a project officer expired on 30 June 2014. A new Funding Agreement was not entered into. Meetings were held between the Department and the Chief Executive Officer of SNAICC and written advice was provided to SNAICC by the Department.

Early Childhood Australia

The Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and Early Childhood Australia (ECA) for the National Secretariat expired on 30 June 2014. A new Funding Agreement was not entered into. A meeting were held between the Department and ECA and written advice was provided to ECA by the Department.