

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. ED0239_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

The National Partnership on the National Quality Agenda

The National Partnership on the National Quality Agenda ends at the end of this year (the budget didn't commit to continue this NP, but had the same "contingency funding" line as it did for universal access).

- a. Is there sufficient funding in the contingency to fund the continuation of the partnership for another full year at the current level. Who is doing the review, and when is it due to be published?
- b. Is the Department aware of how the states are using this funding from the Commonwealth to support their transition to the NQF? How will the states and territories' capacity to implement the NQF be affected if this NP isn't continued?
- c. Have the states expressed a desire for this NP to continue? Have the states advised the Department of the impact that not extending this NP will have on their assessment and accreditation operations?

Answer

The National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care (NP NQA) is not an expiring NP.

The Australian Government committed a further \$19.1 million to support states and territories implement the National Quality Framework in 2014-15.

The Australian Government's funding for states and territories is in recognition of their additional functions under the NQF and costs arising from supporting the national body — the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) as set out in the NP NQA.

The Australian and state and territory governments are working together to undertake the review. The Australian Government has engaged Woolcott Research Pty Ltd and Deloitte Access Economics to assist with some aspects of the review. The 2014 Review is expected to make recommendations to governments towards the end of 2014.