

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0249_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Change in spelling of the word 'program' to 'programme'

The following questions relate to the Department's action to change the spelling of 'program' to 'programme' in Department publications and materials a. On what date, or approximate date, did the Department start making changes to the spelling of 'program'? Was this after the election? b. What was the total cost, expressed in dollars (including the cost of time spent by Department employees and contractors) of making this change to spelling in Department publications? c. What was the total time, expressed in hours, spent by Department officers, contractors or others on this task? d. Has there been a change in the recognised spelling of this word in Australia?

Answer

- a. Following the announcement of the outcome of the 2013 Federal Election, the department updated its internal Style Guide to reflect the language and style of the incoming Government's policy material.
- b. The style is reflected in some new and updated content and materials produced after September 2013. The department would always apply the principle of not diverting resources unnecessarily for this kind of update.
- c. The department is unable to quantify the cost and hours of making these changes without diverting significant resources.