

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

#### Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0270\_15

Senator Wright provided in writing.

#### Question

##### *P-TECH Schools*

As reported by the Sydney Morning Herald ('Tony Abbott considers importing US-style school program with private industry involvement', 12/6/14, <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/tony-abbott-considers-importing-usstyle-school-program-with-private-industry-involvement-20140612-39y5y.html>) – the Government is considering schooling models similar to the P-TECH school in Brooklyn visited by the Prime Minister. 1. When was the Department made aware of the Prime Minister's interest in transposing the P-TECH model to Australian schools? 2. The article says the policy will be 'clarified within months'. Is the Department able to provide a more detailed timeline for when this policy might be formally announced? 3. Please provide any information on what work has been done on this model so far by the department, including details of any consultation with either industry or business stakeholders. 4. Does the Department have in mind any corporations or industry sectors which would be particularly suited to partner with Australian schools? 5. Has the Department done any modelling on the cost of transitioning an individual school to school similar to the US P-TECH model? 6. What funding is allocated in the budget to roll out this scheme?

#### Answer

1. As part of the consultation process being undertaken to strengthen Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS), the department has provided advice to Government on a range of strategies to build stronger connections between schools and industry.
2. No. This is a matter for Government.
3. The department has consulted with business, industry and education stakeholders as part of the work being undertaken to strengthen VETiS in Australia. This included exploring a range of strategies to improve connections between schools and industry.
4. No.
5. No.
6. The 2014-15 Budget did not allocate any funding for the implementation of P-TECH in Australia.