

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0743_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EM0130_14

Question

Deighton-Smith Review costs

"During the Senate Estimates process on the 3rd of June 2014, the Department gave the following evidence; Dr Morehead: As you would be aware, we have had a consultant recently updating the data and looking at all the recent statistics and academic research. There has been quite a lot of work that the government has invested in that recently to make sure that they are fully across the absolute latest research and statistics and any links that can be found between variables. Senator LINES: How much did that consultant's report cost? Dr Morehead: It cost a total of \$44,550. Ms Parker noted a few minutes later that the breakdown of the costs for the consultant's report was given in the tabled document. That tabled document noted that the cost for the report was \$29,700, not the \$44,550 confirmed as the total expended in the evidence given in evidence. Can the Department confirm; 1. Which amount is correct? 2. Why and how incorrect evidence was given at the hearing when the document was tabled and available? 3. What the \$14,850 difference in these figures is attributed to?"

Answer

1. A total of \$44,550 has been expended for the report.
2. The evidence given was correct. The documents tabled in response to EM0130_14 include both the original contract between the Department and Mr Deighton-Smith, valued at \$29,700, and the Deed of Variation to the Contract, which included the revised contract amount of \$44,550.
3. The \$14,850 figure is the additional amount that was provided under the revised contract.