

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Cross Portfolio

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000856

Senator Marshall, Gavin provided in writing,

Payroll services (Plutus)

Question

1. Do any of these labour hire companies use Plutus?
2. When did the Department become aware that there was a problem with Plutus in connection with the Department?
3. When was the Minister advised?
4. What steps have been taken to avoid a repeat and are there other payroll companies operating as agents of IT and other contractors?
5. How much Commonwealth money is being directed through payroll companies?

Answer

1. The Department of Education and Training has not directly engaged Plutus Payroll for payroll services. Some of the labour hire companies engaged by the department have used payroll services provided by Plutus Payroll.
2. The department commenced its assessment to determine who may have been impacted by services provided by Plutus Payroll on 19 May 2017. This has confirmed the department has no direct engagements with Plutus Payroll.
3. The department has not briefed the Minister on Plutus Payroll, as our investigations revealed minimal impact on contractors engaged by the department.
4. It is a personal decision of each contractor to determine which payroll company they want to manage their payroll affairs. The department is not directly involved in overseeing these arrangements.
5. The department does not directly use any payroll companies.