

## **Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

#### **Outcome: Skills and Training**

#### **Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000875**

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye provided in writing

#### ***Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List Methodology***

##### **Question**

The Department of Education and Training is undertaking a review of the new Medium and Long Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL) based on the outcome of the Department's 2017-18 Skilled Occupation List review.

- How does an occupation come to be reviewed?
- The review methodology states that the first step involves identifying occupations that are most susceptible to constraints. For occupations such as dancer and musician, were they previously assessed as being susceptible to constraints, as they have such intensive time periods to develop the skills?
- Did these, or would these, occupations meet the criteria to pass the first step? If not why not?
- As the methodology then states that the second step involves assessing the medium to long term skill needs of the economy for each occupation. What research was undertaken into the future of the arts in the Australian economy, for the arts courses?
- What research will be undertaken into the future of the arts and its impact on the Australian economy?
- In the methodology it states that meetings with stakeholders are undertaken where necessary, such as when a change to the list is recommended. As dancer and musician have recently been removed from the list. How many stakeholders did you meet with, and who were they?
- Have you received advice that these positions should be returned to the list?

##### **Answer**

The Department of Education and Training conducted a review of the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) between October 2016 and April 2017. On 18 April 2017, this list was replaced by the Medium and Long-Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL). The occupations on the MLTSSL were the same occupations as those on the 2017–18 SOL announced in May 2016.

Dancers and musicians were not on the SOL list prior to the reforms and hence were not on the MLTSSL.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has undertaken a consultation process regarding the occupations to be added to the MLTSSL subsequent to the reforms announced on 18 April 2017. The department has not had representations about these occupations as a result of these Reforms.

Suitability of occupations for inclusion on the SOL (now the MLTSSL) is assessed through a two-step process established in 2010.

Step 1 involves identifying occupations that are most susceptible to supply constraints and/or most likely to warrant intervention to address supply constraints. Occupations must satisfy two of the following three criteria:

- The time taken to achieve a particular qualification (long lead time)
- whether the majority of people in that occupation have that qualification (high use) and
- whether it is of high-risk to the economy if demand for the occupation is not met (high risk).

Occupations that have passed step one are then assessed in Step 2.

Step 2 involves assessing the medium and long-term skill needs of the economy. We look at demand for the occupation and likely supply to determine whether there will be undersupply issues in the medium- and long-term.

Assessment is based on a wide range of education, labour market, migration and general economic and demographic indicators in addition to stakeholder input collated via a public consultation process.

For further information on the assessment process please see <https://www.education.gov.au/skilled-occupations-list-methodology>.

The public consultation process was conducted between October and November 2016 and targeted discussions with a range of stakeholders during January and March 2017. Through the public consultation process stakeholders have the opportunity to provide information about medium and long-term supply issues for all occupations.

The unit groups Actors, Dancers and Other Entertainers (2111) and Music Professionals (2112) did not meet any of the criteria outlined in the current methodology as specified for step one of the assessment when considered in the 2017–18 SOL review (now the MLTSSL review).

The department did not receive any submissions on the occupations in the unit groups Actors, Dancers and Other Entertainers (2111) or Music Professionals (2112). These occupations have not previously been on the SOL.

Given this assessment against Step 1 and that no submissions were received for these occupations, no further research on the future of the arts sector was undertaken for Step 2. Research and assessment for Step 2 is only undertaken for those occupations which meet Step 1 or receive strong submissions from industry.

Research on the future of the arts and its impact on the Australian economy is not within the scope of the review process.