

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0455_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies: Non-Conventional Therapies

Since 7 September 2013: 1. Are non-conventional therapies, for staff or ministerial use, able to be provided by the department/agency? (Including, but not limited to: Music Therapy, Hypnosis, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, etc) If yes: a) What is the process by which these therapies can be approved? b) Who are they available to? c) Please detail the reasons the therapies able to be provided (e.g. Work Place Agreement, recommended by a report to the department, etc)? 2. Has the department/agency paid for any non-conventional therapy for any Minister or staff? If yes: a) What therapies have been provided? b) What were they used to treat? c) What was the cost of the therapy?

Answer

Generally, the Department does not provide non-conventional therapies for employees or Ministerial staff.

However, evidence based therapies such as chiropractic treatment may be considered as part of the department's case management and early intervention approach for employees with non-compensable health related matters.

There is no record of any non-conventional therapy being paid for by the department for any Ministerial staff or employee.

The **Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)** has provided a nil response.

The **Australian Research Council (ARC)** has provided a nil response.

The **Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA)** has provided a nil response.

The **Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)**– provides the following response.

1. There is no current process for non-conventional therapies to be provided. However, these therapies may be available for use if this type of therapy is required related to an injury/illness for which AITSL is deemed liable (i.e. as determined by our WorkCover Authority) or as required to support an employee in returning to work.
2. No