

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0468_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contact. When was it formed or created? 2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction? 3. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations on restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created? 4. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction? 5. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction? 6. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change? 7. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website? 8. If no consultation has occurred, why not? 9. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements? If so, when? Who did he/she meet with?

Answer

Questions 1-5 and 9

The Department/Agencies do not keep statistics on whether contracts or agreements managed by the Department/Agencies contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy. It is unlikely there are any such contracts or agreements.

Questions 6-8

Since the budget hearings in June 2014, the Department/Agencies have a nil response.