

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0472_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies: Freedom of Information (FOI)

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act): Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

1. Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests? 2. If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information: a) The Department or Agency which was consulted; b) The document; c) The purpose of the consultation; d) Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension; e) Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension

3. Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received? 4. If yes, provide a table setting out the following information: a) The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted; b) The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted; c) The purpose of the consultation; d) Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension; e) Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension f) Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office

Answer

Department of Education

1. The department does not keep statistics on consultations with other departments or agencies. However, in circumstances where certain documents falling within the scope of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request have originated from another department or agency, or the subject matter of the documents relate to the functions or activities of another department or agency, the department will typically consult with that department or agency on those documents before any decision on access is made.
2. The department does not keep statistics on consultations with the Minister or the Minister's office. The department routinely reports to the Minister on FOI requests received that relate to the Minister's portfolio responsibilities.

Australian Research Council

The Australian Research Council has provided the following response:

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency has provided a nil response.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies has provided a nil response.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Agency

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Agency (ACARA) has provided the following response:

Since Budget Estimates on 4 June 2014:

1. ACARA has not consulted with any party (including the Minister and the Department).
2. Not applicable.
3. ACARA provides a three weekly report to the Minister's office on the status of current FOI requests.
4. (a) - (e) - not applicable, as ACARA has not consulted with Minister's office.
(f) refer to 3 above.

Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership

The Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership is not subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.