

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0486_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies:Reviews

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a) the date they were ordered
 - b) the date they commenced
 - c) the minister responsible
 - d) the department responsible
 - e) the nature of the review
 - f) their terms of reference
 - g) the scope of the review
 - h) Who is conducting the review
 - i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j) the expected report date
 - k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
2. For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 - c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 - d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - g) If yes, for each, who selected them
 - h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

3. Which reviews are on-going?
 - a) Please list them.
 - b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
4. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
5. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
6. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
8. What reviews are planned?
 - a) When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c) When will government respond to each review?
 - d) Will the government release each review?
 - i If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer

Consistent with previous answers on this topic, a review is considered to be a formal examination of an area of government policy undertaken by an agency or a person chosen by the Government, and to which a government response expected.

Reviews produced as a component of work for Cabinet committees, inter-Departmental committees, Council of Australian Government (COAG) working groups and internal committees are excluded.

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

1. One – see Attachment A.
2. Yes – see Attachment A.
3. There are no ongoing reviews.
4. There are no reviews that have been stopped, paused or ceased.
5. Three reviews have concluded since Budget Estimates in June 2014:
 - a. Independent Consultancy Review of the *My School* website.
 - b. The Independent Review of the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.
 - c. The review of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.
6. Reviews provided to Government since the Budget Estimates in June 2014:
 - a. A final report of the Independent Consultancy Review of the *My School* website was provided on 8 September 2014.
 - b. The Independent Review of the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program was provided on 23 October 2014.
 - c. The review of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education was provided on 12 August 2014.
7. The timing of any response to a review is a matter for government.
8. No reviews are planned.

ATTACHMENT A

1) Reviews commenced since the Budget Estimates in June 2014:	Independent Consultancy Review of the <i>My School</i> website
a. the date they were ordered	17 June 2014
b. the date they commenced	17 June 2014
c. the minister responsible	Minister for Education
d. the department responsible	Department of Education
e. the nature of the review	Independent consultancy advice to the Australian Government on a review the <i>My School</i> website
f. their terms of reference	<p>This independent review's terms of reference were to examine and report on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The success of the site in meeting the original purpose of <i>My School</i> including functionality and accessibility. • How information published on My School is currently used and displayed. • The level to which the current suite of information available supports the Government's reform agenda, in particular, for parent and community engagement, school autonomy and the development of an evidence base of outcome and performance data. • The publication of additional indicators, including those already agreed by the Ministerial Council. • Opportunities for improvements, including better targeted information, efficiencies and enhancements to meet the objectives of My School and the school reform agenda.
g. the scope of the review	Independent advice to the Australian Government on My School and its success at meeting its purpose delivering school level information.
h. Who is conducting the review	Mr Grahame Cook from Grahame Cook Consulting Pty Ltd
i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review	One EL1.
j. the expected report date	Final report provided 8 September 2014
k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs	Final cost \$45,879.65 (GST inclusive), includes cost of consultancy and report of \$44,000 (GST inclusive) and

	agreed travel of \$1,879.65 (GST inclusive).
i. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public	Release of the report is a matter for government
2) For any review commenced or ordered since the Budget Estimates in June 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?	Yes
a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names	Grahame Cook Consulting Pty Ltd
b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent	Mr Grahame Cook PSM
c. If yes, for each what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to each cost item	As above under 1(k), final cost \$45,879.65 (GST inclusive), includes cost of consultancy and report of \$44,000 (GST inclusive) and travel of \$1,879.65 (GST inclusive).
d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement	To provide independent advice to the Australian Government to review of <i>My School</i>
e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.	No
f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them	No contact prior to the appointment of the consultancy.
g. If yes, for each, who selected them	The department recommended appointment to the Minister of Mr Grahame Cook from Grahame Cook Consulting Pty Ltd.
h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them	The Minister approved the department's recommendation of the appointment.
i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was	As above
ii. If yes, did they see or provide input to a short list	The department's recommendation to appoint Mr Grahame Cook from Grahame Cook Consulting Pty Ltd included consideration of other shortlisted candidates.
iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement	The Minister approved the appointment on 28 May 2014.

occur	
iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department	No.
v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur	Not applicable, as per iv. above.