

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0508_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Disability Access

1. Please provide a list of all premises owned, leased or otherwise operated by the department / agency which do not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010). For each, please provide: 2. The year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires). 3. What plans are in place to make the premises compliant with the act. 4. When these plans will commence and when they are expected to be complete. 5. Has the minister or the minister's office been informed of these plans? Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) between the minister's office and the department regarding this issue. 6. What is the expected cost of making the premises compliant? Please break down the costs. 7. Have any plans to make any premises compliant been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail, including the reasons for which they were cancelled, put on hold or delayed and how the decision was reached. 8. Have any complaints been lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.

Answer

Education Department

The department shares a lease with the Department of Employment on a property at 250 St Georges Terrace, Perth that does not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The lease commenced on 1 April 2003 and expires on 31 March 2016.

The lessor has advised that funding is in place to develop an action plan and commence upgrading areas to current standards. The department has not yet had confirmation of a date on when this will occur however. The costs to upgrade the property is unknown.

There has been no communication with the Minister or the Minister's office about these plans. No plans have been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since 7 September 2013 and no complaints have been lodged to the department's knowledge.

Agency responses

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

ACARA has provided the following answer.

1.

Melbourne Office – 440 Collins St	Building is exempt from the Act due to age, entrance is compliant
Perth Office – 68 St Georges Terrace	Building is exempt from the Act due to age, entrance is compliant

2.

Office	Start of lease	End of lease
Melbourne Office – 440 Collins St	2014	45 day notice clause
Perth Office – 68 St Georges Terrace	2013	31 st July 2016

3.- 7. Nil

8. No complaints have been made.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

AITSL provides the following response for the period 1 June – 31 October 2014.

1 – 3.

Office locations	Current leases start dates	Current lease end dates	Is the lease expected to be renewed?	Current lease locations	Plans for compliancy to the act?
Melbourne	15 April 2013	14 April 2018	Yes, if AITSL's funding continues.	Level 8 440 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000	None. Building is exempt from the Act due to age
Canberra	28 August 2013	27 August 2015	Yes	Lyons ACT 2606 (private address)	None. Building is exempt from the Act due to age

4.- 6. Not Applicable

7. No

8. No. AITSL has so far had no requirements from staff or clients.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

1. AIATSIS building, Lawson Crescent Acton Peninsula (owned)
2. The building was completed and occupied in 2001.
3. Architects have been appointed to design an interior refit, which will include making the premises compliant with the Act.
4. The design is underway, and it is intended to be implemented during 2015.
5. No.
6. Unknown – pending design and costing.
7. No.
8. No.

