

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0657_15

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 119

Question

New Chaplaincy program

Mr Thomas: In framing the new program to be delivered by the states and territories, the Commonwealth has set out some terms for participation in the program that are required by states and territories. That has been articulated to jurisdictions as part of their consideration to participate in the program. Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide those criteria and any details of agreements with the states and territories?

Mr Thomas: No agreement has been reached with states and territories at the moment. That is with education ministers for consideration. Mr Cook: They have agreed to participate, and they have all formally written to the senator to participate. They now have the project agreement, which is the documentation for them to sign. It sets out the conditions, but they have all been consulted on and know about these conditions. Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide details of the department meeting at a departmental-ministerial level, and any information about what was discussed or decided? That would be helpful. Mr Cook: Sure.

Answer

The department consulted with all state and territory education departments in the development of a Project Agreement, created subject to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations to support the delivery of the National School Chaplaincy Programme.

Matters discussed with state and territory education departments included:

- the Commonwealth's terms for participation
- the roles and responsibilities of each party
- project milestones, reporting and payment arrangements
- financial arrangements
- governance arrangements.