

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000628

Senator Kim Carr asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 37

Classification of Nous report - Reform package

Question

Senator Birmingham: No because it has not yet been part of cabinet discussions, but it will be.

Senator KIM CARR: But if it is not classified as cabinet-in-confidence, I would have thought it was liable for FOI. If you declare it cabinet-in-confidence after today, there may well be an entirely different construct on that matter. You have said to me it is not cabinet-in-confidence at the moment.

Senator Birmingham: FOI provisions do cover information in documents that are part of the deliberative processes of government as well and of course this is just that. So I think you will find that in that regard it is covered under those deliberative provisions. It may additionally and it is highly likely expected to be covered by cabinet provisions as well.

Senator KIM CARR: So its present classification, what is it?

Senator Birmingham: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: On the question of consultations, were there any discussions with any staff members other than the vice-chancellors?

Ms Borthwick: We would have to take that on notice.

Answer

The Nous Group report is classified as PROTECTED – Sensitive: Cabinet.