

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. SQ15-000642

Senator Kim Carr asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 45

Nous Contract - departure announcement of Robert Griew

Question

Senator KIM CARR: He wrote to stakeholders?

Ms Paul: He wrote to stakeholders, I think.

Senator KIM CARR: Was it while he was still in the associate secretary's position?

Ms Paul: Sure.

Senator Birmingham: He was informing them of his departure.

Ms Paul: Yes. In the normal course of events—

Senator KIM CARR: If he was still associate secretary, could you tell the date on which that occurred and can I have a look at that letter?

Ms Paul: We can take that on notice. It is quite normal to announce where you are going; it is a bit odd not to.

Senator KIM CARR: What is not normal is for a minister's office to ring up a senior officer—

Answer

Mr Griew sent the following letter to stakeholders on 24 April 2015 (reprinted here with his permission):

Dear colleagues

I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving the department on Friday 5 June. An exciting new opportunity has presented itself in the private sector which will also allow me to spend more time with my kids, who are based in Sydney. I will be taking up a position as a Principal at the NOUS Consulting Group.

Since taking over the higher education portfolio in 2011, I have had the pleasure of working with a large number of talented and dedicated people, all committed to improving the quality, innovation and reach of the sector and outcomes for its students and the wider community. It has been a fantastic experience and I have hugely valued the relationships I have developed across the sector. I came on board as the move to the demand driven system was being implemented and have obviously been centrally involved in the development and prosecution of the government's reforms over the last twelve months. I am proud to have shared this journey with you. I am sure it will continue.

Jessie Borthwick will act as deputy secretary of the Higher Education, Research and International Cluster pending permanent filling of the position. I am sure the close working relationship between the department and all the parts of the sector will continue. It is really a stand out across the various sectors in which I have worked as a public servant.

I wish you all the best and I'm sure lots of us will cross paths again.

Yours sincerely

Robert