

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. SQ15-000660

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 66

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000394

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I just want to confirm that the Indigenous leaders and organisations were not consulted about the abolition of the council?

Ms Borthwick: That was a decision taken in the context of the budget.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, it was a budget decision

Ms Borthwick: Yes, that is right.

Senator KIM CARR: So the first that the Indigenous leaders' organisations would have known about it was the budget?

Ms Paul: I am not sure. Can we take that on notice?

Senator KIM CARR: If you could please. It says here, 'The government has decided not to appoint a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education advisory council.' Are you saying Peter Buckskin's group has now become the de facto one?

Answer

- All members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council (the Council) were advised of the Australian Government's decision to not appoint a new Council at the end of the Council's term, by the then Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, in a letter dated 10 May 2015.
- The Government will be consulting with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC), together with Universities Australia, the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council and other key experts as the central element of its approach to drive this body of work forward.