

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. SQ15-000753

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000453.

Office for Learning and Teaching

Question

Concerning the Office of Learning and Teaching:

- (a) how has the consultation process – led by Prof Ross Milbourne – turned out?
- (b) What has happened?
- (c) How many submissions were received?
- (d) What was the outcome of the roundtables that were convened?
- (e) What was the total cost of the work conducted by Professor Milbourne?
- (f) I note Professor Milbourne makes a number of recommendations. Has the government responded to these recommendations?
- (g) Will the government accept them all?
- (h) Has a home for the new-look OLT been decided? Where is it?
- (i) What has been the outcome of discussions about possible conflicts of interest arising in the new context?
- (j) What has happened to the expert panel and various specialist panels? Are they still in place?
- (k) What will be the transition arrangements?
- (l) What has been decided about future consultation arrangements? What advisory committees will be established? Will there be a Strategic Advisory Committee? Who will chair it and who will be on it?
- (m) Will there be a Grants Standing Committee? Who will chair it? Who will be its members?
- (n) When will these matters be decided? Who will be consulted?
- (o) In answer to SQ15-000453, the department responds to my question of how the funding cut to the OLT is justified with the answer “yes”. Can you provide a more discursive answer to that question, please?

Answer

- (a) The consultation resulted in Professor Milbourne providing a report to the Department of Education and Training, published on 2 October 2015.
- (b) Professor Milbourne’s report has been published.
- (c) A total of 43 written submissions were received. These can be viewed at <https://submissions.education.gov.au/Forms/New-Learning-and-Teaching-Institute/pages/index>
- (d) The round table discussions were part of the consultation process that gathered views from the higher education sector on the current programme and on the establishment of a new learning and teaching institute. These are presented and discussed in Professor Milbourne’s report.

- (e) The total cost of the work conducted by Professor Milbourne was \$20,747.85
- (f-g) The report was commissioned by, and provided to, the department. The department is addressing the recommendations through the request for proposal.
- (h) No.
- (i) Professor Milbourne's report provides clear advice that the success of the new institute must be measured by its ability to advocate to, and engage with, all stakeholders. To this end the report makes recommendations for governance arrangements that provide a strategic and sector-wide focus, so that the institute does not become insular and pursue only the agenda of the host institution.
- (j) The Expert Panel and specialist panels remain in place until 30 June 2016.
- (k-n) No decision has been made.
- (o) The decision to reduce available funding was taken in the 2015–16 Budget context.