

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0383_14

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group

Questions

1. What process occurred in order to select the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG)?
2. What are the public consultation plans for TEMAG, and what timeframes apply?
3. What are the terms of employment for the members of TEMAG, including specifically the start and end dates for the contracts, expected hours of work and pay grade for each member?
4. What is the full cost, budgeted or anticipated, of this review, including a breakdown of staffing, travel and administration costs?

Answers

1. What process occurred in order to select the TEMAG?

The department provided a list of names of potential members to the Minister for consideration. The appointment process followed the requirements of the Cabinet Handbook.

2. What are the public consultation plans for TEMAG, and what timeframes apply?

- The Terms of Reference state:
“The Group will undertake public consultations, inviting written public submissions and hosting up to four national meetings with key stakeholders. Consultations will include meeting with, at a minimum:
 - The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership,
 - Universities Australia and the Australian Council of Deans of Education,
 - Teacher employers and teacher regulatory bodies,
 - Key representative bodies of the education sector, and
 - Relevant education experts.”
- Details of the consultation process, including timeframes, are yet to be determined by TEMAG and will become available on the Students First website once they are finalised.

3. What are the terms of employment for the members of TEMAG, including specifically the start and end dates for the contracts, expected hours of work and pay grade for each member?

- The members were appointed to the TEMAG on a part-time basis, for the period 17 February 2014 to 31 December 2014, through an Instrument of Appointment executed by the Minister. This is not a contract of employment.
- Members will be remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/11: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office. As per the Category One level outlined in clause 2.3 of that determination, the daily fees payable are \$429 AUD per day for the Chair, and \$322 AUD per day for other members.
- The Instrument of Appointment specifies that members will not be remunerated for business outside of official TEMAG meetings or official stakeholder consultation meetings, with the exception of the Chair, who will be remunerated for two days of preparation for each official TEMAG meeting and each official stakeholder consultation meeting.
- It is anticipated that there will be up to five official TEMAG meetings and up to four stakeholder consultation meetings, however, this may change depending on the requirements of the work as it progresses.

4. What is the full cost, budgeted or anticipated, of this review, including a breakdown of staffing, travel and administration costs?

- \$230 000 is currently budgeted for costs associated with TEMAG, including travel and administration, and will be met using existing departmental funding.
- Four staff are allocated to the Secretariat supporting the TEMAG work.