

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.4 - Funding for Higher Education

#### DEST Question No. E373\_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

Earlier I was asking about the over \$1million in contracts that have been let to MUP in the last year or so. There have been four consultancies that I know of. Can the Higher Education Division shed any light on these?

- a) Can you tell me who, from the list of 14 academic staff, have been the lead researcher or coordinator of these projects?
- b) These projects have been in school education. Does MUP have a School of Education?
- c) If not, which staff members would possibly have the requisite qualifications and expertise to lead such a consultancy team? Or were the lead researchers staff members of the University of Melbourne?
- d) Can you confirm that Professor Peter Cuttance is a staff member of the University of Melbourne? Is he the lead researcher on at least some of these projects let to MUP?

#### Answer:

*Melbourne University Private*

- a) The consultancy contracts that have awarded by DEST to MUP are listed below, along with details of lead researchers/ coordinators.

<i>Contract</i>	<i>Lead researcher/ coordinator</i>
Boys' Education Lighthouse Schools – Stage Two project	Professor Peter Cuttance (Director, Centre of Applied Educational Research, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne)
Development of Schooling Issues Digest No.6 Student Motivation and Engagement	Associate Professor, Dr Erica Frydenberg (Department of Learning and Educational Development, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne)
National Coordination of numeracy research projects	Professor Kaye Stacey, Dr Helen Chick and Dr Jill Vincent (all from the Department of Science and Mathematics Education, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne)
National Quality Schooling Framework (NQS)	Professor Peter Cuttance (Director, Centre of Applied Educational Research, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne)
Research on the regulatory framework for private higher education institutions in the UAE and Iran	Professor Vincent Massaro (at the time of undertaking the project Prof. Massaro was Executive Dean, School of International Development, Melbourne University Private but is now Managing Director, Massaro

	Consulting Pty Ltd)
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The 14 academic staff listed in the MUP 2004 Annual Report are: Paul Andrea; Dana Angove; Amanda Bayliss; Garry Carnegie; Colin Duffield; Kerry Ellerington; Victoria Foster; David Ingram; Brenda Krenus; Anthony Marcus; Vin Massaro; Michael Regan; Stuart Ross; Michael Webber.

Of these academic staff, Dr Massaro was lead researchers/coordinator on one of the consultancies listed at (a) (Research on the regulatory framework for private higher education institutions in the UAE and Iran).

b) MUP does not have a School of Education. Its academic Schools consist of: the School of Applied Language Studies; the School of International Development; and the School of Enterprise.

c) Staff members of the University of Melbourne were lead researchers on the consultancy contracts listed at (a).

<i>Contract</i>	<i>Comment on MUP contractual arrangements</i>
Boys' Education Lighthouse Schools – Stage Two project	Our understanding is that MUP's role in this project was to act as contract administrator and to provide financial services in relation to the project. Academic expertise for the project was sourced from relevant areas in the University of Melbourne, as well as other universities across Australia. The Department is satisfied that MUP was able to source appropriate expertise for the purposes of the project.
Development of Schooling Issues Digest No.6 Student Motivation and Engagement	Our understanding is that MUP's role in this project was to act as contract administrator, while the academic expertise was provided by staff from the University of Melbourne. The Department is satisfied that MUP was able to source appropriate expertise for the purposes of the project.
National Coordination of Numeracy Research projects	Our understanding is that MUP's role in this project was to act as contract administrator and to provide financial services in relation to the project. Academic expertise for the project was sourced from relevant areas in the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education. The Department is satisfied that MUP was able to source appropriate expertise for the purposes of the project.
National Quality Schooling Framework (NQS)	The Department entered into a contract for the NQS in 2001 with Melbourne Enterprises International Ltd. In March 2003 the contract was novated to MUP. The Department is satisfied that MUP was able to source appropriate expertise for the purposes of the project.
Research on the regulatory framework for private higher education institutions in the UAE and Iran	The Department entered into a contract with Melbourne University Private in 2004 to undertake a research study into the regulatory framework for private higher education institutions in the UAE and Iran. The researchers on this project were

	Professor Vincent Massaro, Executive Dean, School of International Development, and Ms Lorraine Perry, Director, Higher Education Capacity Building, both staff members of MUP. The final report of the project was submitted to the Department in June 2005. The Department is satisfied that the researchers possessed appropriate expertise for the purposes of the project.
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d) Professor Cuttance is a staff member of the University of Melbourne. He is the lead researcher on the Boys' Education Lighthouse Schools – Stage Two project and National Quality Schooling Framework project.

On 18 October 2005, the Department received advice that the Centre for Applied Educational Research (of which Professor Cuttance is currently the Director) will be disbanded and drawn back into the Faculty of Education. The Department does not expect this to have an impact on the completion of these projects, and is liaising with the University of Melbourne to make sure that arrangements are in place to ensure that the projects are completed to our satisfaction.