

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E427_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

- (a) Is the review report an independent report of the Review Committee?
- (b) Was the Minister or the Minister's office involved in any way?
 - If so, to what effect?
- (c) Was the Secretary of the Department involved in 'clearing' the report. Or was the Minister's role simply in providing comment?
 - If so, to what effect?

Answer:

Review of Teaching and Teacher Education – Status of Committee Report

- (a) Yes, the report *Australia's Teacher; Australia's Future - Advancing Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics* is the independent report of the Review Committee which was chaired by Professor Kwong Lee Dow AM, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and consisted of representatives from Australia's schooling, university and business sectors.
- (b) The Minister for Education, Science and Training established the Review Committee on 8 August 2002. At the first meeting of the Committee, the Minister outlined the Terms of Reference and timeline and emphasised the independent nature of the Review. In addition the Chair of the Review Committee briefed the Minister on the progress of the Review on three occasions. Members of the Minister's staff were present at those briefings. At one of these meetings, the Minister invited Professor Lee Dow to present a preliminary overview of the Committee's progress and findings to Education Ministers at the July 2003 meeting of MCEETYA. The Chair of the Committee also briefed the Queensland Minister for Education, all Directors-General of Education or their representatives in the States and Territories and senior officials from the Catholic and Independent sectors as well as many other stakeholders.
- (c) The report was not cleared by the Secretary of the Department. The Minister and relevant areas in the Department were provided with early drafts for comment. Changes were made where factual errors warranted them or to improve readability. The Minister was provided with a copy for information in advance of the launch on 9 October 2003.