



**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

2011-12 BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONNAIRE

PART A

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY  
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



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## **PART A: Non-Budget-sensitive information**

*Responses to questions in Part A are due by 5.00 pm, Thursday 28 April 2011*

### **1. Strategic priorities**

#### **Question 1.1**

*What are the Department's key strategic priorities that underpin its budget for 2011-12 and over the forward estimates to 2014-15?*

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's 2011-12 Budget was underpinned by the following priorities:

- Implement the Government's 2010 election commitments
- Meet commitments relating to the COAG reform agenda
- Strengthen the delivery of core programs and services
- Integrate and align the new Department to support a lifelong learning agenda
- Manage resources efficiently and effectively.

#### **Question 1.2**

*If applicable, how do these priorities differ from the previous year?*

The priorities underpinning the Budget have changed from those articulated in previous years to reflect the vision of the new Government for vocational education, school education and early childhood development. These have been articulated across a number of statements including *The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Plan for Education* and the *2011 Victorian Families Statement*.

Specifically, this means the key areas of focus for each portfolio are as follows:

- Early Childhood Development, including capital investment; further investment in supporting kindergarten for children from low socio-economic families and children with disabilities; and supporting early childhood education and care in rural areas.
- School Education, including investment in child welfare and students with special needs; evidence based investment in core literacy and numeracy; better curriculum options including specialisation and languages; and greater freedom for principals and school councils.
- Higher Education and Skills, including building skills and improving access to training opportunities for all Victorians; improving the quality

of training; and improving access to higher education for regional students.

## 2. Budget preparation

### Question 2.1

- (a) *Does your Department estimate the cost of providing input into the process of developing the State Budget?*

No. The process of developing the State Budget is part of the Department's strategic and resource focused planning.

Developing the State Budget is one the many tasks undertaken to ensure the right resources are available to continue to deliver high quality vocational education, school education and early childhood education and care services for Victorian families.

As such, the specific cost of providing input into the process of developing the State Budget is not specifically quantified.

- (b) *If so, what are the cost centres involved e.g. preparation of budget bids; preparation, internal reviews and approvals of business cases; servicing the Budget Expenditure Review Committee?*

Not applicable

- (c) *If it is possible to do so, what is the Department's estimate of the cost of work undertaken as part of the preparation of the 2011-12 Budget (please provide a breakdown according to key tasks if possible). For the Department of Treasury and Finance, please provide a breakdown that differentiates between the part of the Department that provides input as a department and the part of the Department that manages the budget process as a whole on behalf of the Government.*

As mentioned in Question 2.1(a), the process of developing the State Budget is part of the Department's broader strategic planning and resource allocation processes. As such, the tasks associated with preparing the budget are absorbed into the Department's core business and it is not possible to quantify the cost of work undertaken.

- (d) *What is the estimated expenditure incurred for the engagement of consultants by the Department to assist in the preparation of items considered for the State Budget for 2011-12?*

While work undertaken by consultants in other capacities was utilised in the preparation of some items considered for the State

Budget in 2011-12, only one consultancy was specifically used for this purpose at a cost of \$43,197 inclusive of GST.

***Question 2.2 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)***

- (a) What is the cost of the development, preparation and publication of the budget papers? Please also provide the details of the number of resources employed and hours entailed.
- (b) What is the Department of Treasury and Finance's view on publishing in future, as part of the budget papers, the cost of developing, preparing and publishing this key accountability document for the State?

***Question 2.3 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)***

If not detailed in the budget papers, please indicate the figure for Victoria's estimated GSP for 2011-12 used in the budget papers and how it was calculated.

### **3. Performance measures**

***Question 3.1 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)***

What proposed training and development initiatives are planned by DTF to update or re-skill the general government sector in the requirements of outcome-based reporting, should the Public Finance and Accountability Bill become legislation?

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The completed questionnaire must be returned in two parts:

**PART A: by 5:00 pm, Thursday, 28 April 2011**

Please return the response (**including an electronic Word version**) of the questionnaire to:

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