

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Manison to the Minister for Education:

#### **Grant to Charles Darwin University**

1. *When did you first become aware that the grant of \$201,300 (GST inclusive) provided by the Department of Education to CDU on 23 June 2014 would fund your subsequent trip to China in November 2014?*

I was invited to attend the tour and my attendance assisted to provide opportunities that would not have otherwise been possible.

A ministerial brief regarding the proposed study tour to Anhui Province China, for November 2014 was prepared on 21 August 2014. The brief outlined that the study tour was to be funded by the Department of Education, but did not detail how travel was to be arranged or booked.

A meeting briefing paper for a meeting held on Monday 15 September 2014 between the Department of Education Chief Executive and the Minister for Education outlines that the China trip in November 2014 was to be conducted as part of the Executive Development for Educational Leaders Program being delivered through the Centre for School Leadership at Charles Darwin University. The paper outlines that the Department of Education was to fund a number of participants (see page 3), including school principals who each made a personal contribution of \$1000. All other delegates met their own costs associated with the study tour.

2. *Has the grant been acquitted yet?*

The grant will be acquitted in the Centre for School Leadership Annual Report 2015. This document is expected to be published online and made available by the end of April 2016.

3. *If not, why not?*

Travel occurred in November 2014 and the acquittal could not be prepared in full for the year ended 31 December 2014 as it is understood that all relevant documentation, including invoices had not been obtained by Charles Darwin University by 31 December 2014.

4. *If so, would you please provide all relevant documentation associated with the costs of this trip?*

As noted above, all relevant documentation is held by Charles Darwin University.

5. *Was any formal correspondence received by the Department of Education from CDU regarding the final costs and outcomes of the trip paid for by this grant? If so, can you please provide this information.*

No formal correspondence has been received by the Department of Education from CDU regarding the final costs and outcomes of the trip paid for by the grant.

6. *When did you first become aware that Latitude Travel was organising the trip and how did you find out?*

The travel organiser was not mentioned in any formal correspondence regarding the China trip provided by the Department of Education to the Minister for Education as the department was not arranging the travel. Travel was arranged by the Centre for School Leadership according to Charles Darwin University processes. Copies of travel itineraries from Latitude Travel were attachments to a minister's briefing paper for a meeting held on Monday 15 September 2014 between the Department of Education Chief Executive and the Minister for Education.

7. *Did you or your staff have any communications with Latitude Travel prior to or during the trip?*

Not to my knowledge.

8. *If so, would you please provide the relevant details?*

Not applicable.

9. *Who travelled to China on this trip paid for by this grant, including Ministerial staff.*

The following participants travelled to China as part of the China trip funded by the grant:

The Hon Peter Chandler MLA	Minister for Education
Mr Ken Davies	Chief Executive, Department of Education
Mr Anthony Jarvis	Senior Ministerial Adviser
Dr Kevin Gillan	Executive Director Education Partnerships, Department of Education
Ms Weifeng Mao	Interpreter, Languages Consultant, Curriculum Assessment and Standards, Department of Education
Mr John Cleary	Principal, Casuarina Street Primary School
Mr Ryan Martin	Principal, Batchelor Area School
Mr Andrew Mison	Principal, NT Music School
Mr Daniel Murtas	Principal, Katherine South Primary School
Mr Edward Fabijan	Principal, Centralian Senior College
Ms Sharon Reeves	Principal, Woodroffe Primary School
Ms Carolyn Edwards	Principal, Henbury School
Ms Sabina Smith	Principal, Nhulunbuy High School
Ms Jennifer Nash	Principal, Casuarina Senior College
Mr Mark Monaghan	Principal, West Arnhem College