

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1302

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“Dr A Lotriet (DA) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture:

Whether the final report on the demand and supply of skills in library, regarding (a) information services, (b) archival services and (c) records management has been completed; if not, when will it be completed; if so when (i) was it completed and (ii) will it be made available?’

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REPLY:

My Department appointed the consortium EE Research Focus (Pty) Ltd and Content at Work in 2009 to do an investigation into the provisioning of education and training by South African institutions of higher learning and tertiary education, and the relevance of the programmes offered for the needs of the library and information sectors (including librarians, archivists, records managers and related information specialists). Libraries and archives face critical challenges in South Africa, such as inadequate infrastructure, inconsistent levels of service, and a lack of trained staff. These problems have already been identified by government and are currently being addressed by the community libraries conditional grant. In the implementation of the grant it became apparent

that the country is facing an acute shortage of trained librarians, and this insight prompted my Department to commission the investigation for the three sectors, since they all face similar problems.

My Department will decide on the implementation of the recommendations made in the report in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Whether the final report on the demand and supply of skills in library, regarding (a) information services, (b) archival services and (c) records management has been completed-

Yes, the final report, entitled: “The demand for and supply of skills in library and information services, archival services and records management”, has been completed.

When was it completed?

The final report was completed and submitted to my Department on 15 March 2010.

Will it be made available?

Yes, the final report will be made available. The report will be published on the Department’s web site and stakeholders will be informed of the web address. This process should be concluded by the end of May 2010.