



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training

Dom English  
Group Manager

Committee Secretary  
Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee Portfolio Additional Estimates hearing on 1 March 2018.

I wish to correct the Hansard on page 85. I provided an incorrect response to a question by Senator Paterson about the growth in student enrolments. Please see the extract from the Hansard below.

I provided evidence that student enrolments had grown by 32 per cent over the period 2010-2015. However, I have verified that the relevant period was 2009-2017. The most recent estimates show that over this period, student enrolments at universities grew by 32.5 per cent.

*Senator PATERSON: I just have some clarifying questions related to Senator Collins' questions. I'm interested in understanding a bit more about universities funding and expenses. How quickly has university expenditure grown compared to their revenue?*

*Senator Birmingham: I had Deloitte undertake some work ahead of last year's budget. It might provide a basis for Mr English, in addition to some of the annual reporting and assessment that universities undertake as well. In headline terms, the Deloitte report showed, I think, that in a period between 2009 and 2015 university revenues per student grew by around 15½ per cent and university costs per student grew by only around 6½ per cent.*

*Senator PATERSON: So the business model was getting better?*

*Senator Birmingham: Certainly it would seem that in terms of their expenditure per student, universities found some economies of scale as their enrolment numbers grew quite significantly—by around 30 per cent over that time frame. Officials may add greater precision than my recollections or further information.*

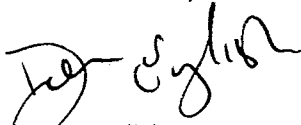
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*Mr English: The numbers the minister was referring to, as he said, showed that between 2010 and 2015 the average cost of delivery per student increased by 9½ per cent. Over the same time, per-student funding increased by 15 per cent. That was at the time that student enrolments increased by 32 per cent.*

I would appreciate if you could draw this matter to the attention of the Committee and apologise for any inconvenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dom English', written in a cursive style.

Dom English

23 April 2018

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