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Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000140

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Also refer to previous Question No. ED0713_15

CGS funding for places in diploma and associate degree courses

Question

"QON ED0713_15 tells the Committee that, in 2014, universities requested CGS funding for around 2,100 places in diploma and associate degree courses. There seems to be an inference that these requests provide an accurate reflection of the extent of demand for such courses.

(a) What analysis of requests by universities for these places has been made?

(b) Would it be possible that – just to take an example of such courses that you provide in ED0714_15 – the University of Tasmania might well plan to offer an Associate Degree of Science, but might not get many takers?

(c) is it the Department's experience that universities adopt an optimistic stance when they ask for additional places? Is this optimism always warranted?"

Answer

The 2013–14 Budget provided \$86.4 million over four years to increase the number of Commonwealth supported places in postgraduate and sub bachelor courses. These places were to support:

- diploma level language courses
- enabling and diploma level tertiary preparation courses
- postgraduate level allied health and nursing places
- postgraduate level initial teacher education courses.

The department undertook analysis of universities' requests for places to ensure the places sought reflected one or more of these categories and final places were allocated on the basis of need.

Payments are made only on the basis of enrolled students.