

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. SQ15-000154

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Commonwealth supported student places

Question

"In the PAES you have revised down the number of Commonwealth supported student places for 2017-18. At the time of the Budget, you said that student places in that year would be 562,200. Now you say they will number 558,700.

- (a) Why is that?
- (b) What changes have there been to lead you to revise your estimate?
- (c) What trends is the revision reflecting?"

Answer

- (a) In PAES 2014-15, the number of Commonwealth supported student places for 2014-15 (2014 calendar year) was revised down from 562,200 to 558,700.

In April each year higher education providers supply estimates for the current calendar year of their equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL). These figures are reflected in the Portfolio Budget Statement as the 'Budget' figures for that year.

EFTSL estimates are revised by higher education providers in October each year to more accurately reflect expected student load for that year. These figures are reflected in PAES as the 'Revised Budget' estimates.

- (b) PAES reflects the change in the estimated number of Commonwealth supported student places, as supplied by higher education providers in October 2014, compared to their estimates from April 2014.
- (c) The change reflects the trend of higher education providers revising student estimates throughout the year with the most recent data. The variance in the 2014 EFTSL estimates between Budget and Revised Budget is less than 1 per cent.