

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. SQ15-000194

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

International and domestic student fees

Question

- "a) In the current Bill, it is proposed that non-Commonwealth funded students' (ie international students)' fees must be equal to or greater than domestic students' fees plus the (missing) Commonwealth contribution. Is that correct?
b) What will be the impact on fees of this change?
c) For science courses, for example, to make up for the 20% CGS cut, universities would need to charge around \$14,200. Is that correct?
d) For international students, universities would need to charge this amount plus an amount equal to the Commonwealth contribution – is that correct? Does that come to \$26,200?
e) How many universities currently charge international students less than that for science courses?
f) What will happen to these universities in the Science education marketplace?"

Answer

The Bill provides that the tuition fee for a unit of study charged to a student in a non-Commonwealth supported place (CSP) must at least equal the sum of the equivalent Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) payment and student contribution for a CSP student in the same or a comparable unit.

The level of student fees is a matter for individual institutions, subject to the above requirement.

The level of fees in particular disciplines is a matter for individual institutions. There is no requirement for institutions to pass on any changes to CGS funding to students, and institutions may decide to charge less than the equivalent fee that is needed to make up the average 20 per cent reduction in a particular discipline. For example, Queensland University of Technology has published fee estimates for 2016 showing that it intends to charge \$32,200 in total for a three year Bachelor of Science degree, the equivalent of around \$10,800 per year.

The department does not currently have data for the 2015 academic year.

Universities are autonomous institutions. The Government's reforms will provide higher education institutions with the flexibility they need to thrive in an era of global competition and allow them to offer the best possible experience to all their students, including international students.