

**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. SQ15-000206**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Commonwealth grants***

**Question**

- "1. Is it a legislative requirement that Table A and B providers are required to enter into a compact with the Commonwealth that covers a current year in which they receive a Commonwealth grant?  
2. Who is the officer in charge of compact discussions?  
3. The current compacts expire at the end of 2016. Are there any plans to commence compact discussions? If not, why not?  
4. How does this sit with the requirements under the Act for a provider to enter into a compact as a condition of receiving a grant?"

**Answer**

1. Yes, section 119-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) requires "a higher education provider that is a Table A provider or a Table B provider must, in respect of each year for which a grant is paid to the provider under this Act, enter into a mission based compact with the Commonwealth for a period that includes that year." However, the Government has indicated its intention to remove this requirement.
2. 3, and 4. As it is current Government policy to remove the requirement for universities to enter into mission based compacts to receive funding under HESA, the department has not begun planning for mission-based compact negotiations.