

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0079_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Research and Strategy Group

"In relation to Research and Strategy, please: (a) List the number of staff in both head count and FTE in this section (b) Outline the activities and program this section is responsible for, including grants and budget measures (c) Provide Departmental and Administered expenses for this section (d) Provide an updated organisation structure for this section"

Answer

- (a) As at 30 June 2014, the Research & Strategy Group's head count was 111 with an FTE of 101.
- (b) Research and Strategy Group consists of four branches:
- **Research and Higher Education Infrastructure Branch** is responsible for policy development and program management of research and higher education infrastructure programmes. It is responsible for implementing the Budget measure to continue funding of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).
 - **Research Funding and Policy Branch** is responsible for policy and funding to support higher education research and research training including through the Research Block Grants. The branch is responsible for implementing the Budget measure to reduce funding to the Research Training Scheme.
 - **Access and Participation Branch** develops and implements evidence-based policy and programmes to ensure that Australians with ability have the opportunity to access and succeed in higher education regardless of their background. It is responsible for implementing the Budget measures to introduce a new Commonwealth Scholarships Scheme and introduce a more effective and efficient Higher Education Participation Programme.
 - **Strategy and Economic Branch** develops strategic, evidence-based policy advice policy coordination on a range of issues relating to Higher Education, International Education, Indigenous issues, social policy issues and the economic frameworks that support them. The branch also provides Australian education statistics to the OECD, primarily for use in the Education at a Glance (EAG) publication.

- (c) The Group's departmental budget for the seven months ended 30 June 2014 was \$8.7 million.

The Group's administered budget for 2013-14 was \$1.445 billion, including \$1.291 billion for Outcome 3.5 *'Investment in Higher Education Research'*; and \$154 million for Outcome 3.6 *'Research Capacity'*.

- (d) The organisation structure for this group is as follows:

