

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000765

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 6 May 2016, Proof Hansard page 107

Enrolment in Flagships

Question

Senator KIM CARR: So you are saying that a 20 per cent maximum would be the proposition that government would put in place?

Senator Birmingham: Correct.

Senator KIM CARR: Would that be 20 per cent of courses or 20 per cent of enrolments?

Senator Birmingham: It would be 20 per cent of student load.

Senator KIM CARR: Student load—that is individuals?

Senator Birmingham: Correct.

Senator KIM CARR: How do you see that in terms of numbers? How many people would that be across the system?

Senator Birmingham: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

Assuming the growth in enrolments and participation remains consistent with current patterns, and a flagships policy was introduced from 1 January 2018:

- a 20 per cent cap would limit the maximum number of students in flagship courses to 59,000 of 293,000 commencing students expected in 2018
- the remaining 234,000 commencing students would be subject to ongoing regulation of student contributions.

Whether or not a flagship policy is applied is subject to consultation.