

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000711

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

United States Studies Centre - Commonwealth funding

Question

How much funding has been provided to the US Studies Centre since its inception? What have been the conditions of grant?

Answer

Funding

In 2007 the Australian Government (through the then Department of Education, Science and Training) provided funding of \$25 million to the America Australia Centre for the establishment of the US Studies Centre.

In 2012, the Australian Government (through the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education) provided an additional \$7.7 million to the America Australia Centre for the ongoing support of the US Studies Centre and the establishment of the US Asia Centre.

Conditions of grant

The 'conditions of grant' (termed 'objectives of the Project' in the contract) for the 2007 contract were:

- to establish at, and under a legally binding agreement with, a major Australian university (which must be established as a university under legislation of the Commonwealth, or of any State of the Commonwealth, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory) (the 'Host University') a centre to be known as the 'United States Studies Centre'
- to fund other select Australian education and research institutions to carry out activities that are consistent with the Centre's Objectives
- deepen the appreciation and understanding of the United States' culture, political climate and government and strengthen the relationship between both countries
- complement and provide leadership on current Australian-United States educational endeavours
- increase the awareness of the study of American politics and government
- promote collaborative research between institutions in Australia and the United States
- operate as a think-tank for the Australian-America relationship
- offer postgraduate research studies at Masters and PhD level
- offer programs in areas such as:
 - American history, politics, current affairs
 - economics, finance, business, trade
 - sociology

- culture studies and literature.
- facilitate professional academic exchanges within appropriate institutions to increase the group of future government political and business leaders with knowledge and experience in the United States
- facilitate collaboration and strategic partnerships with other Australian universities through programmes or projects at those universities that directly support and contribute to the Centre's Objectives ("Collaborative Arrangements")
- produce scholarly articles and reports on matters of common interest to Australia and America
- seek to establish reciprocal relationships with other institutions
- submit to the Department a Business Plan, an Investment Plan and Annual Plans by nominated dates and to provide an evaluation report prior to the end of the reporting period.

The 'conditions of grant' (termed 'Project outcomes' in the contract) for the 2012 contract were:

- to provide financial support to the United States Studies Centre (USSC) at the University of Sydney for it to continue to meet its objectives and to establish, under a legally binding agreement, a United States Studies Centre at the University of Western Australia or another Western Australian university as appropriate. The USSC at the University of Sydney and the USSC in Western Australia will collectively be known as 'the Centres'
- the objectives of the Centres are to:
 - deepen the appreciation and understanding of the United States' culture, political climate and government and strengthen the relationship between both countries;
 - complement and provide leadership on current Australia/United States educational endeavours
 - increase awareness of American politics and government
 - promote collaborative research between institutions in Australia and the United States
 - operate as a think-tank for the Australian/United States relationship.
- establish, under a legally binding agreement with the University of Western Australia (or another Western Australian university as appropriate), a United States Studies Centre at the University of Western Australia or at another Western Australian university as appropriate. Endeavour to secure aggregate matching funding of \$3 million (plus \$300,000 GST) from the Western Australian Government, Western Australian universities and other appropriate sources in order to establish the USSC in Western Australia
- provide the Commonwealth with a Business Plan and budget for the USSC at the University of Sydney within three months after signing this Agreement, and provide us with a Business Plan, budget and governance structure for the USSC in Western Australia within three months after the date of the legally binding agreement with the University of Western Australia (or another Western Australian university as appropriate) has been signed and set out the strategies you will implement over the project period to ensure the Centres achieve their objectives.