

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. SQ17-000726

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Cross-subsidisation of research and research infrastructure

Question

According to the Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group Final Report 2015: "cross-subsidisation of research and research infrastructure is taking place to the tune of around \$5 billion per year"

- (a) Has the Department got an updated assessment of this number?
- (b) Will the efficiency dividend have any impact on cross-subsidisation?
- (c) Will the reduction in grant amounts from the Commonwealth Grants scheme have any impact on cross subsidisation for research?

Answer

(a) The Department of Education and Training is not aware that this number has been updated.

(b), (c) The efficiency dividend only applies to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme. Commonwealth funding for research and other learning and teaching grants is not affected by the efficiency dividend. As autonomous institutions, universities are responsible for determining the internal allocation of funding for the various activities in which they engage. How universities respond to the efficiency dividend and changes to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme will be a matter for each individual university and may vary between universities depending on a range of factors, including their priorities and business planning. Commonwealth funding for research through the Education and Training portfolio is expected to grow from \$2.9 billion in 2017–18 to \$3.1 billion in 2020–21, totalling around \$12 billion over this four year period.