Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Higher Education, Reform and Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0605_15

Senator Carr asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 15

Question

SRE survey deregulation issue

Senator KIM CARR: Can I come back to this question about the deregulation issue? The claim is that you deregulate to save money. That is the claim. I read, for instance, an article in The Daily Telegraph on 20 October. It is obviously from the government propaganda unit. It says that the axe is falling on silly laws. That is the headline. It is clearly a media drop. It says that the sustainable research excellence survey is being removed, saving $2.1 million to the university. That is the assertion in the article. I want to test that claim. Are you familiar with the assertion that the SRE financial data return is being removed? Ms Paul: No, I am not. I am not familiar with it. It may well be the case among one of many in the portfolio. I am not aware of that report, no. Senator KIM CARR: Clearly you are not responsible for what appears in the newspaper. I accept that proposition. It may well be that the journalist has been misinformed. But that is the claim. We might be able to answer it now. Mr Griew: I am going to suggest that we come back with detailed evidence. But there are a number of instances like that. I would have to check. I do not have it in my folder. There are a number of these data collections that we have been systematically going through with the unit that works to Ms Wilson. And we have removed a number of either duplicate or unnecessary collections. Senator KIM CARR: I understand that proposition. But the article asserts that it has been abolished, when in fact what you are doing—and I read the department's own website—is relying on an old survey. Mr Griew: As I said, I am happy to get you the details on that SRE data collection.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided in ED0704_15.

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