

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0700_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

International Trends in Higher education policy

International Trends in Higher education policy: (a) The Government has made favourable comments about the United States as a model for higher education reform. Are the Government's proposed higher education reforms designed to bring Australian higher education closer to the system of the US? (b) Has the Government considered other alternatives? Has it considered the European Union's Bologna Process? Can the department direct the Committee to a discussion by the Government of this model? (c) Has the Government examined the means by which other countries are financing expansion in higher education? By what means is China financing expansion and improvement in higher education? By what means are other Asian countries – such as India, Singapore and Malaysia – financing improvement and expansion in higher education?

Answer

- (a) No.
- (b) The Government is aware of the Bologna Process.
- (c) The Government considered a number of factors in developing the higher education reforms, including the most effective mechanism to provide Australian higher education institutions with the resources needed to be amongst the best in the world given Australia's current budget situation.

Data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) shows that in 2011, public spending on tertiary education as a proportion of GDP was higher in Australia than Malaysia, Singapore and India (data on China was unavailable).