

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000652

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 60

Commonwealth Grants Scheme

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I will turn to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme. Does the 20 per cent reduction remain government policy?

Mr Hart: Yes.

Ms Borthwick: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: Did the department write to any university regarding funding rates for 2016?

Ms Borthwick: Yes, we did. We did it twice.

Senator KIM CARR: And that included the 20 per cent reduction?

Ms Borthwick: No, on the second occasion for 2016 the estimates remain as they were for 2015, using the same—

Senator KIM CARR: Do you have copies of those letters?

Ms Borthwick: Can I take that on notice? We can get you copies.

Answer

On 7 July 2015 and 1 October 2015 the department wrote to all higher education institutions that receive Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) and Higher Education Loan Programme funding.

Attachment A - letter dated 7 July 2015

“Reconciliation of CGS and HELP payments, reimbursement of Efficiency Dividend for 2014 and 2016 advance payments”

Attachment B – letter dated 1 October 2015

“2016 Higher Education Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) and Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) Funding Arrangements and 2015 student load estimates update”