

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. SQ15-000794

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

NCRIS

Question

Universities Australia in its pre-budget submission in February said “on advice from the Department of Education, Universities Australia considers that approximately \$200 million per annum (indexed) is required for the NCRIS, beginning in 2016-17 ...” (p. 19). Can you confirm that this figure is correct? If not, what is the funding required to maintain NCRIS capabilities per annum?

Answer

The Australian Government provided \$300 million in the 2015 Budget, with \$150 million for each of 2015-16 and 2016-17, to ensure the ongoing operations of the NCRIS network to 30 June 2017. The Department of Education and Training is unable to validate the calculations by Universities Australia.

Prior to the 2014 Budget NCRIS was funded only to 30 June 2015.

The Government recently announced the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) which contains measures worth \$1.1 billion over four years. A part of this agenda is securing funding for NCRIS for the next 10 years, which will deliver a range of new initiatives to support research, incentivise innovation and entrepreneurship, reward risk taking, and promote science.