

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001131**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 117-118

***Education Investment Fund***

**Question**

Senator O'NEILL: ..... Could you tell me the balance of the Education Investment Fund?

Dr Bruniges: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that here.

.....

Senator O'NEILL: Just to be clear: the money which is indicated in the Future Fund as \$3.721 billion is no longer available for investment in research infrastructure?

Dr Bruniges: I am happy to take that on notice once I sight the document. That is probably the best thing to do at this point.

Senator O'NEILL: To what other purposes has the EIF been committed?

Dr Bruniges: Again, it is related to the issue we have just raised with the Department of Finance. I can couple that with the previous question.

Senator Birmingham: Decisions around the EIF were made, if my memory is correct, back in the 2014 budget and the balance was potentially allocated or transferred to the Asset Recycling Fund at that time. Given, again, that predates most of us at the table in terms of the portfolio, if you want to ask 2014 budget questions we will have to take them on notice and go back and look at it.

Senator O'NEILL: Isn't it related to legislation that was defeated in the parliament?

Senator Birmingham: Again, I will have to take that on notice and check.

Senator O'NEILL: Under what authority, if there is any, or what instrument, has the money been committed to other uses? Bear in mind that this is a statutory fund.

Senator Birmingham: Given the prior answers, we will take that on notice.

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Senator O'NEILL: Why does the EIF still appear the Future Fund documents if it is not, in fact, available?

Senator Birmingham: We will take that on notice.

Senator O'NEILL: Is it still there?

Senator Birmingham: We will take that on notice.

**Answer**

Questions relating to the Education Investment Fund should be referred to the Department of Finance.