Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: University Student Services and Amenities Fees.

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, pages 72-73)

QUESTION No.: AI-33

Senator MASON: Can a schedule of the fees charged by each university in 2012 be provided to the committee? Are there any concession rates?

Mr Warburton: Universities have a reasonable amount of discretion in how they charge fees. They can charge different categories of students different amounts of fees. They are required to charge part-time students less.

Senator MASON: How much less?

Senator Chris Evans: I am sure it was in the legislation.

Mr Warburton: It was in the guidelines.

Senator MASON: It does not specify any particular amount.

Mr Warburton: A part-time student is a student that does less than 75 per cent of a full-time load. A part-time student cannot be charged more than 75 per cent of the maximum that applies to a full-time student.

Senator MASON: But they could be charged less?

Mr Warburton: Yes. Universities like to do things in their own unique ways. You can find their student services and amenities fee schedules on their websites, but they are all quite different.

Senator MASON: I understand that.

Senator Chris Evans: I have an interest in our trying to combine the information to get a sense of what has happened across the board with the fees. I think that is your interest; I share it. We will take on notice what we can do to actually get that together.

Senator MASON: Also, if it is possible, all 39 would be really good.

Senator Chris Evans: Yes, I think the officer is reflecting the fact that this is the sort of information owned by the universities, but I think it is appropriate that we have that in a document so people can look at what has happened.

ANSWER

See the attached table for a list of the student services and amenities fees charged by each university.