

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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

**TOPIC:** Pre-bachelor & post-graduate placements

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** AI-90

Has any consideration been given to allowing Universities to determine their own allocation of pre-bachelor and post-graduate placements? Please detail.

**ANSWER**

In November 2011, prior to the full implementation of the demand driven funding arrangements, sub bachelor places were ‘designated’ to ensure that the higher education sector did not expand at the expense of TAFEs and other vocational education and training providers, and that costs were not, as a consequence, shifted from states and territories to the Commonwealth.

In 2011, the Government released a consultation paper on the allocation of Commonwealth supported postgraduate places. The paper canvassed four options including:

1. that the Government would continue to allocate additional places for specific courses based on national priorities;
2. that the Government would allocate additional places to ensure all universities had a minimum number of postgraduate places;
3. for universities to negotiate their allocation of postgraduate places within an overall funding limit which is set by the Government; and
4. whether funding for these places should be demand driven, consistent with the funding provided for undergraduate bachelor degree places.

With relation to Option 4, it was noted that if all full-fee postgraduate places were converted to Commonwealth supported, this would incur significant costs to the Commonwealth.

The department is currently negotiating with universities their funding for Commonwealth supported places for 2014-16, including their needs for sub-bachelor and postgraduate places.