

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 73

Topic: Credited client accounts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Mason asked:

1. Will the Minister confirm for the Committee whether the Treasury has undertaken any specific economic modelling relating to the overall economic and fiscal impact and effects of implementing the Government's Response to the Bradley Review's proposed reforms to the higher education sector?

(a) If such modelling has been undertaken, will the Minister provide to the Committee:

i. details of the assumptions contained therein, the key conclusions, and the key recommendations arising from that modelling?

ii. a copy of the Departmental brief relating to the analysis of that Treasury modelling?

iii. details of any internal and/or external reports that have been undertaken by the Treasury in relation to that modelling?

iv. confirmation of whether the Minister for Tertiary Education and/or his personal office and/or his Department have been advised that the Treasury has undertaken this modelling, and if so, advise specifically when was this advice first provided to each of the DEEWR and/or the Minister's office?

v. confirmation of whether copies of the analysis and major conclusions of this modelling have been provided to the Minister for Tertiary Education and/or his Department, and if so, advise specifically when was this first provided to each of the DEEWR and/or the Minister's office?

2. If no such economic modelling has been undertaken by the Treasury, has the Treasury commissioned any independent studies by economists to assess these economic impacts?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) If so, will the Minister provide to the Committee details of the scope of that commissioned research, who has been commissioned to undertake the study, what specific type of modelling will be undertaken as part of that study and how extensive is it proposed to

be, and when it is due to be completed and provided to the Treasury and/or the Government for consideration and evaluation?

Answer:

The Government's response to the Review of Australian Higher Education (Bradley Report) was announced in the 2009-10 Budget, and the published measures were based on costings agreed between the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Finance. Treasury has not undertaken any specific modelling or commissioned any independent studies to examine the overall economic and fiscal impact of implementing the Government's Response to the Bradley Report.