

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

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

TOPIC: Cross institutional student numbers

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Monday 28 May 2012, page 74)

QUESTION No.: BI-32

Senator MASON: Indeed. So you would give up your Commonwealth supported place. That is right, isn't it?

Dr Groom: If you are enrolled through OUA, it cannot offer Commonwealth supported places. It is not a higher education provider.

Senator MASON: I just want to make sure that we get this right. If you enrolled online with, for example, two different universities, let us say Griffith and Charles Sturt, you would be subject to the fee at both?

Dr Groom: Yes.

Mr de Carvalho: I am not sure how common this is.

Senator MASON: I was going to ask how common it is.

Mr de Carvalho: I have, for example, recently completed a qualification through the ANU which involved me studying as an external student through an arrangement with Monash. I was, if you like, enrolled and received my qualification through ANU, but that meant that I had to, due to various circumstances, take a subject at Monash. I am not enrolled in two universities and paying the student amenities fee.

Senator MASON: You are getting a cross accreditation, in effect, like you were enrolled at one uni.

Mr Griew: If you are enrolled at two universities you are presumably taking a risk with their enrolment policies. I would have thought that it would be better to enrol with one in an arrangement like that.

Mr de Carvalho: Unless, of course, you are studying for two degrees at the same time with two different universities. I think that if people have the kind of arrangement that I am talking about, they are actually doing one degree, or one qualification, at a time. They have their base enrolment at one university and they may be required to take, as an external student, a unit of work somewhere else.

Senator MASON: So your point is that you would not pay another fee for that external unit?

Mr de Carvalho: No, because it is being delivered on behalf of—

Senator MASON: I understand that.

Mr Griew: We have not given you advice on how common each arrangement is, and that is where Open Universities comes into it.

Senator MASON: Mr Griew, can you advise the committee on how common these arrangements are?

Mr Griew: To the extent that we can find out, we will take it on notice.

ANSWER

A student is enrolled in a cross-institutional program if the student is enrolled in a course of study with one higher education provider (the home provider) but undertaking units of study that contribute to their course of study at another provider (the host provider). Cross-institutional students can be charged a student services and amenities fee at each provider in which they are enrolled. In 2010, there were 6,732 domestic and overseas students undertaking cross-institutional study.

Students may also be enrolled in different courses at multiple providers at the same time. These students can be charged a student services and amenities fee at each provider with which they are enrolled. During 2010, 7,991* students undertook two or more courses (including enabling and non-award programs) at two or more higher education providers.

*Please note that this figure only includes students that have a Commonwealth Higher Education Student Support Number (CHESSN), it does not include Research Training Scheme students, overseas students and other students that do not have a CHESSN. The figure reflects the student circumstances in a calendar year, not necessarily concurrently. For example, a student could have been enrolled in an undergraduate course in semester one at one provider and postgraduate course at another provider in semester two.