

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: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Rural students undertaking tertiary units

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Monday 28 May 2012, page 87)

QUESTION No.: BI-42

Senator NASH: I have a separate issue that I will finish up on. It is a good news story that I am interested in some further information on. The local Catholic college in my home town of Young, Hennessy, has just recently announced a partnership between their school and the Australian Catholic University to allow rural students to undertake tertiary units at the school, which I think is a tremendous initiative. They are opening it up to other students as well as long as they have finished the HSC, even if they have not gone to Hennessy. I think this is great stuff. I am interested to know if this type of modelling is happening anywhere else around the country.

Mr Robinson: I can talk from personal experience. There is a number of them. For example, here at the Australian National University they have a program offered through the ACT for year 11 and 12 students to undertake essentially tertiary-level qualifications on a part-time basis after school, which is guaranteed recognition as part of their tertiary qualification if they then choose to go on to that qualification. I imagine there are many examples of that.

Senator Chris Evans: There are a lot of things going on with TAFEs, of course, where there are partnerships.

Senator NASH: In the interest of time, insofar as you can find the information for me, can I ask where it is happening. It is not so much with the TAFEs, because I am quite aware of that, but with the actual schools themselves doing this. I am going to have to finish up now, so you can take that on notice.

ANSWER

Secondary schools in most States and Territories do have access to statewide partnerships between universities and State and Territory Boards of Education that allow students in the final years of their secondary schooling to undertake some study at a university.

The programs may allow students to gain advanced standing towards a future university course at that university where the units studied in years 11 and 12 are directly related to that course. In some States and Territories, the study undertaken at the university may also count towards a student's Statewide/Territory-wide tertiary admissions rank. Some of the programs require students to be exceptionally gifted. Other programs are aimed at students planning to undertake university study on completion of secondary school.

Programs vary based on State/Territory arrangements and are not directly funded by the Commonwealth.