

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: CSP undergraduate and postgraduate course work places – estimates for forward years

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Monday 28 May 2012, page 60)

QUESTION No.: BI-28

Senator MASON: On page 94, the number of CSP undergraduate places gives a 2011 revised estimate. Why does it only have two years? You have a 2011-12 revised estimate, 486,500, and then 512,000 for 2012-13. You have only got two years and usually—is this not right?—you have deliverables for four years, the usual length for these things in DEEWR, Health and FaHCSIA? Why is it only for two years?

Mr Griew: This is the first time that we have reported in this portfolio for this program, and your observation that we reported more years in the previous DEEWR PBS, to my recollection, is right. It is no change of heart on our part. I think we are just complying with a different format.

Mr Griew: If there is a particular metric that you are particularly interested in, we could provide it if we have the data. It will depend on the specific statistic you are after as to whether we have the data going that far forward and on what basis.

Mr de Carvalho: We could provide it. It is not difficult.

Senator MASON: Could you provide the estimates of Commonwealth supported places—CSP places—for all the forward years? Is that possible? **Mr Griew:** The undergraduate places?

Senator MASON: Yes.

Mr Griew: Yes.

Senator MASON: And also for the postgraduate course work places as well, which is the next list down.

Mr Griew: Yes. You will appreciate that that is on whatever basis they have been gathered and the current state of the estimates.

Senator MASON: I understand that. I am sure, gentlemen, you understand why this is important. If you are estimating an increase over the next forward estimates in expenditure of a billion dollars roughly, that has to be based on something.

Mr de Carvalho: Yes, I understand. We can give you what we have in terms of calendar years, if you like. We have not actually got the financial years right in front of us.

Senator Chris Evans: The calendar years are actually more helpful because of the— **Senator MASON:** Yes, because of the university year. If you could provide that to the committee at a later stage, that would be very useful. **Mr Griew:** We will take that on **notice**.

Mr de Carvalho: I have something for you. I can read it.

Senator MASON: If you could help me, that would be delightful.

Mr de Carvalho: Undergraduate EFSL, looking at 2013 and 2014, is what I have got on paper.

Senator MASON: Hold on. This is 2013 and 2014?

Mr de Carvalho: So, for calendar year 2013 undergraduate and enabling places, 535,600; and for 2014, 552,800. If you want postgraduate places, we have for 2013, 36,800; and for 2014, 37,900. That gives you a total in 2013 of 572,400.

Senator MASON: Yes, although the forward estimates that we have quoted before, that goes up to 2015 and 2016, does it not?

Mr de Carvalho: I do not have those in front of me.

Senator MASON: You haven't?

Mr de Carvalho: No. I have just got 2013 and 2014 at this stage.

Senator MASON: That is fine, but you see the point, do you not?

Senator Chris Evans: We will get them for you. He just does not have them in front of him.

Senator MASON: Okay.

Mr de Carvalho: Would you like the total for 2014?

Senator MASON: Yes, go ahead.

Mr de Carvalho: That gives you a total in 2014 of 590,700.

Senator MASON: That will do for the moment. What we know is that the estimate is for \$6.9 billion at the end of the forward estimates; we know that, correct?

Mr de Carvalho: Yes.

Senator MASON: Clearly that is related to what? What are the inputs there? It is the growth in undergraduate places and postgraduate places; that is right, isn't it?

Mr de Carvalho: Yes.

Senator MASON: And you will give that to the committee shortly?

Mr Griew: Plus the loadings built in.

Mr de Carvalho: Yes, the various loadings as well.

Senator MASON: What are they?

Mr de Carvalho: You have enabling loading. You have regional loading. That is right.

ANSWER

The estimated number of Commonwealth supported places for 2012-13 to 2015-16 is:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of Commonwealth supported domestic undergraduate places	512,100	535,600	552,800	560,400
Number of Commonwealth supported domestic postgraduate coursework places	35,800	36,800	37,900	37,900
Total number of Commonwealth supported places	547,900	572,400	590,700	598,300

Please note that these figures are for calendar year. For example, the figure for 2012-13 relates to the 2012 calendar year, which is the same as the table in the PBS.