

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: Research funding and expenditure

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rhiannon.

QUESTION No.: BI-221

Is it reasonable to assume that the funding gap between universities' Higher Education Expenditure on Research and Experimental Development (HERD) and actual research funding received is cross-subsidised to a large extent from the Commonwealth Grant Scheme and Student Fee Income?

- a. If not, Larkins' 2011 paper identifies a funding gap of some \$2.7 billion in 2008. What is the source of income to pay for that gap between research funding received and HERD?
- b. What is the gap between research funding received from government and university HERD for each year since?
- c. If there is a gap, where is the extra funding being diverted from within universities?

ANSWER

The department is not able to provide a specific response to this question as investment by universities is a matter for individual universities. Universities have access to a diverse range of funding sources not specifically reported as funding for research that could potentially be applied for research and associated activities. These include donations, bequests, foundations, returns on investments, sales of assets, consultancies and commercial activities.