

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

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

TOPIC: Low-SES students

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, pages 80-81)

QUESTION No.: SI-37

Senator MASON: I understand that. In regards to the participation component, institutional allocations have been increasing very rapidly over the past few years. I understand that they doubled between 2010 and 2011 and then increased again by half between 2011 and 2012. I would call that pretty rapid. Has that increase been due solely to the increase in numbers of low-SES students or has there been an increase in the baseline funding for low-SES students? In other words, what accounts for the growth?

Mr de Carvalho: Two things, essentially. There is growth in the numbers, but then there are also the new indexation arrangements that came into place as well.

Senator MASON: Both the amount being paid and the numbers of low-SES students.

Mr de Carvalho: The indexation on the amount has changed.

Senator MASON: Yes.

Mr de Carvalho: But the numbers have also increased. I might ask Mr Ritchie if he has got any further details on growth in numbers. Sorry, he does not.

Senator MASON: Can you disaggregate those two amounts?

Mr de Carvalho: Not right now, but we can make an attempt—

Senator MASON: Could you take it on notice.

Senator Chris Evans: Is it actually driven by the budget allocation?

Mr de Carvalho: Yes.

Senator Chris Evans: So when the senator points to increased expenditures because of increase budget allocations—

Mr de Carvalho: Yes, Senator. there is more in this program. It is not fully demand driven, if you like. There is a budget allocation for HEPP.

Senator MASON: But the mix is due to those two factors, isn't it?

Mr Griew: The allocations to the universities are driven by the numbers of students.

Mr de Carvalho: The allocations to the individual universities are driven by their numbers and the indexation, but there is also the actual budget allocation of the money in the program.

Senator MASON: I want to know, with respect to the budget allocation and those two factors, how it divides up. That is what I want to know.

Mr de Carvalho: All right. We will see what we can provide.

ANSWER

The Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program was established in 2010. The growth in institutional allocations from 2010 under the Participation component is due to increased funding for 2011 and 2012 as the program is progressively implemented.

Indexation is applied to total program funding and not to the value per place for low socio-economic status (SES) students.

Participation funding allocations to universities are determined based on each university's share of the national total of low SES enrolments.