

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: Higher Education Support

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, page 84)

QUESTION No.: SI-38

Senator MASON: I am not a great user of the portfolio budget statements, however my staff do look at them. They have pointed out page 92 under program expenses, 3.1, higher education support and the My University website. Do you have that gentlemen?

Mr de Carvalho: Page 92 of the DIISRTE of portfolio budget statements?

Senator MASON: Yes.

Mr de Carvalho: Yes.

Senator MASON: The revised budget for 2011-12 is \$1.241 million.

Dr Taylor: 2012-13 is \$1.411 million.

Senator MASON: Why does it go down? In 2014-15 it is \$2.55 million—is that right? In forward year 3, 2015-16 it is zero. Why is that?

Dr Taylor: In 2014-15 zero?

Senator MASON: No, 2015-16. Why is it zero?

Mr de Carvalho: Are you on page 92?

Senator MASON: Yes. Do you see that?

Mr de Carvalho: Yes.

Senator MASON: Why is it zero?

Dr Taylor: There has just been no funding allocated in 2015-16.

Senator MASON: Is there any reason for that?

Mr de Carvalho: When you think about the development of these websites, they are mainly front-end loaded for the development work that needs to be done. Once they are up and running, they do not take too much. I would expect that this is probably something that we will have to ask for further funding for at the time.

Mr Griew: The line that you are pointing to on page 92 is an administered expense item. The total cost of this project would include more than administered expenses; it would include some of Mr da Carvalho's staff time as well and they may well be using data from other sources. If you want a breakdown, I suggest we take that on notice.

Mr de Carvalho: It may well have been that at the time the government made the decision, it just said that it would fund it for three years and then fund it again when the time comes.

Senator Chris Evans: Senator Mason, we will get you an answer on notice. I can assure you there is no lack of resolve to continue the site and improve it, and it will continue to be funded and supported because—

ANSWER

The 2014-15 *MyUniversity* Administered Appropriation is \$255,000.

The *MyUniversity* website is currently at the preparation stage where the Department is assessing the costs for Phase 2 of the website. This process will need to be completed to establish the associated costs before setting further funding for the 2015-16 financial year.