

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW1092\_10**

**Senator Cormann asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 143.**

**Question**

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SECTOR**

Senator CORMANN—Did you assess the impacts of the value of the dollar on the international education sector? Ms Paul—I am not sure. Senator CORMANN—No, I am asking a question now. Ms Paul—I would need to take that on notice. We probably cannot go too much further before we get into what would have been potentially input to advice to cabinet and I am probably reaching the end of questions about content.

**Answer**

The Department closely monitors exchange rate movements for Australia against Australia's major international education competitors, and major student source countries. The Department has published a number of research snapshots looking at the relative movements of the Australian dollar and other currencies to inform Australia's international education sector.

Despite significant changes in the relative value of the Australian dollar in recent years, the Department has not identified any consistent correlation between these currency movements and international student enrolments in Australia.

Visa application data recently reported by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship suggest that international student commencements (i.e. new enrolments) in Australia may decline somewhat in 2010 from the 2009 high, which may be due in part to the appreciation of the Australian dollar.