

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0274_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Online higher education

1. What resources in the Department are currently directed towards the growth in online learning?
2. Has the Department directed any additional resources to online higher education since September 2013?
3. Are there any major projects underway on this topic?
4. How is the sector responding to changes in technology, and the digital disruption, for example the fact that universities like Stanford and Harvard are putting their courses online?
5. What is TEQSA doing about this, given they largely, now regulate for an environment that is bricks and mortar?

Answer

1. The Office for Learning and Teaching allocates funding to enhance online higher education through the Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (PELTHE) programme.
2. See below.
3. The Australian Government commissioned five major projects (\$1.5 million) to enhance online higher education in December 2013 from PELTHE.
4. The higher education sector has been adopting online technologies in teaching and learning in both blended and fully online delivery modes over the past decade. Australian universities are also taking advantage of new online technologies by partnering with large international Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) providers and by developing their own MOOC platforms.
5. TEQSA provides national consistency in the way higher education providers are registered, how courses are accredited and how the quality of the system is monitored. This includes where online delivery is part of the course of study leading to a higher education award.