

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0471_11

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

COMMONWEALTH SPONSORED PLACES

Government funding of commonwealth sponsored university places differ based on the type of university course in recognition of the cost of delivering different courses. Provide detail on each of the following: a) The formula used to calculate the differing costs of university fees. b) Using the following courses as examples detail how formula is applied to commonwealth sponsored places: i) Arts ii) Arts / Law iii) Veterinary Medicine iv) Medicine v) Agriculture vi) Agribusiness

Answer

The Australian Government provides funding to eligible higher education providers under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) for an agreed number of Commonwealth supported places in a given year.

Under the CGS funding cluster rates are used to calculate the amount of funding a higher education provider receives for Commonwealth supported places. The total funding that a provider receives through this cluster funding is the sum of the number of Commonwealth supported places by cluster multiplied by the Commonwealth contribution rate for each cluster.

The funding cluster, or a particular part of a funding cluster, in which a unit of study is included is specified in the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines No 1 (Chapter 9). Clusters are defined by the field of education arising from applying the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).

The following table shows the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding cluster (Commonwealth contribution) amounts for 2010.

Funding cluster		Commonwealth contribution per EFTSL (\$)
		2010
1	Law, accounting, administration, economics, commerce	1,765
2	Humanities	4,901
3	Mathematics, statistics, behavioural science, social studies, computing, built environment, other health	8,670
4	Education	9,020
5	Clinical psychology, allied health, foreign languages, visual and performing arts	10,662
6	Nursing	11,903
7	Engineering, science, surveying	15,156
8	Dentistry, medicine, veterinary science, agriculture	19,235

Note:

Funding rates are allocated per equivalent fulltime student load (EFTSL) by units of study. Not all units in a given course of study necessarily fall within the same contribution band. For example, if a student is enrolled in a combined Bachelor of Arts/Law degree course, they may undertake some units of study that are classified as 'law' and some that are classified as 'humanities'.

Similarly, a person undertaking medicine may undertake units of study that are classified as 'medicine' and some that are classified as 'other health'.

A person undertaking agribusiness may undertake units of study that are classified as 'agriculture' and some that are classified as 'mathematics'.

The funding relativities across the funding clusters do not purport to reflect the actual costs of delivering a particular course at a particular university.