

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0591_12

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Regulation and compliance costs

Since both the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) share the responsibility for universities (research and teaching functions respectively), has there been any effort to coordinate information gathering between the departments to ensure that there is no doubling up and the universities are not asked to provide the same information twice (or more) to different departments, or different branches of the same department?

Answer

DEEWR and the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) have responsibilities for different aspects of universities operations. The departments have established a close working relationship, sharing data and information and cooperating on sector consultation processes. For example visits to universities to discuss Compacts were undertaken jointly.

A number of reporting processes are handled by DEEWR on behalf of DIISR, giving universities a single channel for submitting information.

DEEWR, for example, maintains responsibility for the management and operation of the higher education statistics collection, and provides information from this collection to DIISR with regard to university staff and higher degree by research student data. Similarly the collection of all statistics and other information for the Institutional Performance Portfolios is handled by DEEWR on behalf of DIISR.

As responsibility for universities now rests with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) the capacity to reduce the compliance burden for universities is enhanced.