

**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.** EW0661\_12

**Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Demand Driven funding***

How will the government convince a university they must provide high cost, low student demand courses such as engineering or science, even when they are listed as National Priority courses?

**Answer**

The Department has regular discussions with universities about the courses they provide. Universities are aware of the importance of students undertaking courses in engineering and science to the national economy and to the future research workforce.

The higher cost of these courses is recognised in funding rates. For example, under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS), engineering and science units are included in funding cluster 7. This has a payment rate of \$15 398 per EFTSL in 2011 and is the second highest funding rate under the GCS.