

**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.** EW0668\_12

**Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Demand Driven funding**

Do you accept an increase in the casualisation of teaching staff in higher education sector as an inevitable result of demand driven funding? If no, on what do you base this position?

**Answer**

Full time equivalent (FTE) casual staff increased from 12,790 in 2001 to 17,979 in 2010 or 15.3% of all full time equivalent university staff in 2001 to 16.2% in 2010, indicating there has been a relatively small increase in casualisation among staff in Australian universities over the last 10 years.

The introduction of the demand driven funding system will enable more students to have the opportunity to benefit from a university education. The Australian Government has demonstrated its support for expansion of the higher education sector providing \$35.7 billion for teaching and learning in our universities over the next four years. Initiatives including an increased rate of indexation, performance funding and funding to support low socioeconomic students will put universities in a strong position to invest in their academic workforce. Universities as autonomous, independent institutions are responsible or course for managing their workforce needs and strategies including the employment of permanent and casual staff to manage workforce demands.