

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 5 June 2014 from 8.59 am to 8.39 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies from the Education portfolio, including the Australian Research Council and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

Among other matters, the following issues were discussed:

- the Future Fellowship program and attracting mid-career researchers
- tropical health medicine and what the Department hopes to achieve at James Cook University
- research into juvenile diabetes
- how TEQSA will manage an increased workload with fewer resources
- expert panel report recommendations and funding reductions for TEQSA
- Commonwealth supported places (HECS/HELP) and how higher education is accredited
- the price of a medical degree across the country for international students
- the move from an 8 cluster funding model to a 5 cluster model
- grandfathered students who were enrolled or on approval
- the applicability of new fees and CGS arrangements to students enrolled on or after 14 May 2014
- new modelling in relation to university fees provided by Universities Australia
- deregulated fee environments and the length of time they have operated in Australia
- the financial health of universities over time
- the number of Commonwealth-supported places required for qualification for the scholarship scheme
- Quality Indicators for Teaching and Learning surveys
- Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) funding arrangements and the effect of the budget
- HELP debt arrangements, and payments for graduates with disabilities
- the number of students who will have a cheaper loan.