

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000139**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Professor Bruce Chapman - proposal to deter providers from setting their fees inordinately high***

**Question**

"At the Senate Education & Employment Committee's hearing of its inquiry into the provisions of the Higher Education and Research reform Bill 2014, Professor Bruce Chapman outlined a proposal to deter providers from setting their fees inordinately high. This involved progressively withholding Commonwealth CGS funding in instances when providers set their fees above certain limits.

- (a) Has the department held further discussions with Professor Chapman – or other proponents of this idea – about the proposal?
- (b) Can you provide details of the nature and content of these discussions?
- (c) What were the date of the discussions?
- (d) How many staff were involved?
- (e) How many staff hours were expended on these discussions?
- (f) Has the department developed a detailed model of the way this might work? Can you provide this to the Committee?
- (g) Is this model to be included in forthcoming legislation? When will that legislation be introduced?"

**Answer**

- (a) Staff from the department have met with proponents of such an idea on two occasions since the Committee hearing
- (b) The purpose of the discussions was for the proponents to outline how such a model might work in practice
- (c) 24 March 2015 and 2 April 2015
- (d) 24 March 2015 – one staff member, 2 April 2015 - six staff members
- (e) 24 March 2015 – one hour, 2 April 2015 – two hours
- (f) As part of the work undertaken to support Professor Chapman, the department has undertaken some work in relation to this proposal and has provided this to the Government as advice
- (g) This is a decision for Government.