

**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. SQ15-000149**

Senator Carr, Kim provided the question in writing.

*Previous Question No. ED697\_15.*

***Universities capacity to undertake outreach to attract and retain more students from disadvantaged backgrounds***

**Question**

"In QON ED697\_15, the department refers to all universities' capacity to "undertake outreach to attract and retain more students from disadvantaged backgrounds."

Isn't it the case that, under the proposed package and with fee deregulation, some universities will be in a better position to offer scholarships than others? For example, won't a sandstone university be able – indeed required – to offer more scholarships than a small regional institution?

And, typically, where do the more disadvantaged students study? Is it at regional and outer metropolitan institutions? Where are the bulk of scholarships needed? Where, for example, do mature-age women living in regional areas choose to study? Do you agree with commentary that suggests that students usually cannot leave their jobs and their families to study in inner-city sandstone universities?"

**Answer**

It is likely that larger universities with larger revenue bases will have larger Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (the scheme) funds.

To balance this, the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014 proposes providing universities with high proportions of disadvantaged students access to additional scholarship funds under the Higher Education Participation Programme.