

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. SQ15-000203

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Also refer to previous Question No. ED0710_15.

Commonwealth supported places

Question

"You have updated figures for the number of Commonwealth supported places for 2014-15. Is that correct?

And can you provide updated numbers across the forward estimates?

So given this has the Department updated its assessment of the number of extra students expected should the Senate approve the governments unfair and necessary higher education legislation?

Your answer to QON ED0710_15 tells us that, currently, there are 50,845 domestic full-fee undergraduate students in Australian higher education – can you confirm that? Under the Government's plan, the places these students occupy would be subsidised through the CGS – is that correct?

On top of that number, about 30,000 new places would be funded. Is that right? And did you calculate that number on the basis of current estimates of growth caused by demographic and social factors – 2-3% per annum?

Where does the claim of "80,000 more students" arise from?

Isn't it the case that 50,000 existing students would be attracting a Commonwealth subsidy for the first time, but that the only growth in the system is 2-3%, plus an estimate of 7,800 additional "growth" places?"

Answer

The department has updated figures for the numbers of Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) over the forward estimates:

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
597,700	613,300	670,000	692,200	712,200

The department has not updated its assessment of the number of additional subsidised students under the Government's reforms. These places are included in the above additional estimates.

As stated in the response to ED0710_15, in 2013 there were 50,845 domestic full fee-paying undergraduate students at Australian higher education institutions. Under the Government's reforms, from 1 January 2016, the places these students occupy would be subsidised through the CGS if their institution chooses to offer CSPs.

The department estimates that under the Government's reforms, in 2018 around 80,000 more Australian students will access Commonwealth subsidies than if the current arrangements remain in place. This number includes places that are currently full fee-paying, annual growth of around 2-3 per cent, and an additional 7800 new places each year from 2016 to allow for the creation of new sub-bachelor courses.