

## 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. SQ15-000217**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

#### ***Dental Schools***

##### **Question**

- "1. Can you remind me how many dental schools are there in Australia?
2. Are you aware of any plans to establish anymore?
3. How many students are studying dental course in Australia? How many of these are in courses that lead to registration as a dental practitioner, and how many lead to occupations as allied dental practitioners?
4. And how many do we expect to have graduated in 2014?
5. Do you agree with the Australian Dental Association that these numbers are leading to an oversupply of dental graduates?
6. Will dental degrees be covered by the government proposals for fee deregulation?
7. At the moment what is the cost for an Australian student to finish a dental degree?
8. And what is the international student course cost?
9. And in 2015 the Australian government contribution for dentistry is?"

##### **Answer**

Twelve Australian universities currently offer degree courses leading to registration as a dental practitioner and/or other dental degree qualifications such as dental assisting, dental technology and dental studies (including dental hygiene and dental radiography).

The department is not aware of any university that plans to establish a new dental programme.

The latest student data available shows 3612.5 equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL) enrolments in dental degree courses in 2013, comprising 3252.1 EFTSL in courses leading to registration as a dental practitioner and 360.4 EFTSL in other dental degree courses (such as those referred to above).

Final data on 2014 completions is not yet available.

In the 2014 review of the demand driven funding system, Dr David Kemp and Mr Andrew Norton noted that employment rates for dentists are declining but that in general, graduates' longer term employment prospects remain good, and that holding a bachelor degree continues to provide significant insurance against unemployment.

The maximum student contribution for a dentistry course in 2015 is \$10,266 per EFTSL. Dentistry is generally a five year degree.

Course fees for international students are deregulated and determined by each university. Section 6.5.1 of the Higher Education Provider Guidelines 2012, under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, stipulates that a higher education provider must charge, as a minimum, a fee sufficient to recover the full cost of providing a course to an overseas student. These course fees vary between universities.

The 2015 Australian Government contribution for Commonwealth supported places in dentistry is \$21,385 per EFTSL. This contribution is the same as the contribution rate for medicine and veterinary science courses.