

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. SQ15-000228

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Coalition Government Budget measure that “puts back” \$563 million in Sustainable Research Excellence funding

Question

"On the ABC television program Q&A on 30 March 2015, Minister Pyne said “Labor cut \$563 million on the sustainable research excellence program. We are putting it all back.”

a) Please provide a reference to the Coalition Government Budget measure that “puts back” \$563 million in Sustainable Research Excellence funding.

b) Has the Coalition Government implemented any measure that would see Sustainable Research Excellence funding increase above the level that would be delivered by maintaining the previous Government’s policies?

c) Please provide a table of all Coalition Government Budget measures that have had (or would have if implemented) an impact on university research funding, including measures related to ARC, NHMRC and the Research Training Scheme. Please provide the estimated net impact of each measure on university research funding for each year of the current forward estimates period."

Answer

The Minister’s statement “we are putting it all back” reflects the Government’s ambition to protect and, where possible, grow its core investment in research. This ambition is reflected in the 2014-15 Budget, where the Government increased total funding for research through the Education portfolio, as shown in the following table.

2014-15 Budget measures affecting Education Portfolio funding for research

	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Research block grants – revised indexation arrangements for all programmes	0	-5,400	-14,500	-22,400	-42,300
National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy – continuation	0	150,000	0	0	150,000
Higher Education Research Promotion – revised indexation arrangements	0	0	0	0	-100
HC Coombs Policy Forum – cessation	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500	-6,000
AIATSIS Digitisation Continuation	3,297	0	0	0	3,297
Mid-career Future Fellowships Scheme – continuation	1,060	22,408	44,993	68,902	137,363
ARC Efficiency Dividend	0	-25,999	-24,064	-24,882	-74,945
Revised indexation arrangements	0	1,128	-1,342	-4,600	-4,814
Total	2,857	140,637	3,587	15,520	162,501

* The measure to reduce Research Training Scheme (RTS) funding is expected to be revenue neutral for universities as it can be fully offset by the introduction of RTS student fees subject to the passage of legislation. The measures to redirect funding within programmes managed by the Australian Research Council (ARC) have also not been included as these were part of a budget neutral reallocation.