

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Cross Portfolio

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000820

Senator Leyonhjelm, David asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 15

Red tape/deregulation

Question

Senator LEYONHJELM: Finally, I have a select committee established to look at red tape. I am wondering if I could ask you about that for a minute or two. Do you ask for feedback from schools about red tape?

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Senator LEYONHJELM: What is the best thing you have ever done to reduce red tape? I know you have not been the head of the department for a long time, but you have been in the department for a fair while, I think, haven't you?

.....

Dr Bruniges: I think some of the harmonisation of legislation that is achieved in some areas has made a big reduction.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Harmonisation of legislation?

Dr Bruniges: Yes. For the mums and dads and for different sectors out there, when we can get some synergy between some legislation across states and territories, that reduces an awful lot of red tape bureaucracy in terms of—

Senator LEYONHJELM: Have you got an example of that?

Dr Bruniges: Can I take that on notice, and I will get you one and give you detail. I do not have that detail with me.

Answer

In the 2014 calendar year the education portfolio identified \$40.7 million in annual regulatory savings (details are published on the department's web site at <http://education.gov.au/news/education-portfolio-annual-deregulation-report-2014>). In the 2015 calendar year the education portfolio identified \$196.8 million in annual regulatory savings (details are published on the PM&C web site at <http://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au/annual-red-tape-reduction-report-2015>).

An example of a significant regulatory saving measure is set out below:

- In December 2015 the *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Act 2015* and the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Act 2015* were passed by Parliament, with the red tape reduction measures taking effect from 15 December 2015.
- These Acts addressed the issues stakeholders highlighted during consultations including unnecessary regulatory costs disadvantaging both education institutions and students.
- The deregulatory savings for education institutions included removing the requirement to report student defaults within a very short period; and making the limit on the collection of tuition fees prior to a student commencing a course more flexible to better facilitate student choice.
- The department, with the agreement of the Office of Best Practice Regulation, estimated an annual regulatory saving of \$48.20 million in compliance costs for these measures.