

Senate Committee Questions
Western Sydney University response in blue

1. Please provide modelling of the impact of the JRG package for your institution from 2021 to 2025:
 - a. Taking into account only the elements in the legislation under consideration
 - b. Taking into account the full JRG package

The University has not modelled into 2025 as the load projections are based on very preliminary data and due to the number of variables such modelling would not be reliable at this stage and the margins of error would be significant.

We are unsure what is meant by part a.

Taking into account the full JRG package, the impact on the University is summarised in the table below. Please note:

- For 2021 to 2023 the impact is mitigated by the Transition fund.
- The University's modelling is based on its current load projections for 2021 to 2023. 2024 assumes no new growth in CGS commencing places.

Year	Funding Component	Pre JRG (\$m)	Post JRG* (\$m)
2021	MBGA (including CPI, Growth and loadings)	\$296.2	\$283.7
	HECS	\$240.7	\$226.3
	HEPPP	\$11.9	\$10.2
	NPILF	-	\$8.8
	Transitional Funding	-	\$19.9
Total		\$548.8	\$548.8
2022	MBGA (including CPI, Growth and loadings)	\$300.3	\$273.9
	HECS	\$248.8	\$252.0
	HEPPP	\$12.7	\$9.2
	NPILF	-	\$8.9
	Transitional Funding	-	\$17.8
Total		\$561.8	\$561.8
2023	MBGA (including CPI, Growth and loadings)	\$304.4	\$268.2
	HECS	\$258.4	\$277.9
	HEPPP	\$13.4	\$8.1
	NPILF	-	\$9.1
	Transitional Funding	-	\$13.0
Total		\$576.3	\$576.3
2024	MBGA (including CPI, Growth and loadings)	\$308.5	\$265.6
	HECS	\$261.4	\$284.5
	HEPPP	\$13.6	\$6.9
	NPILF	-	\$9.3
	Transitional Funding	-	n.a
	Total	\$583.5	\$566.3
Variance to Pre JRG Funding			-\$17.2

2. According to the Department's calculator, what will be the funding cut for universities in 2024 compared to 2019 due to the cluster funding changes?

The Department's modelling shows \$522.3 in CGS and HECS funding in 2024. The University received \$541.8m in CGS and HECS in 2019. However, as described below, 2019 is not a useful comparator for the impact of JRG.

3. According to your own modelling, what will be the funding cut for universities in 2024 compared to 2019 due to the cluster funding changes?

The University's modelling shows \$550.1m in CGS and HECS funding in 2024 under JRG. Given that student load, and hence income, will increase over the five years from 2019, 2019 is not a useful comparator to assess the impact of the JRG.

Under the funding regime in operation in 2019, the University would have expected \$569.9m in CGS and HECS funding in 2024.

4. Please provide modelling on the impact on the fees paid by women students and indigenous students, based on your most recent enrolment data.
It is not possible to provide data at this level of granularity. The JRG changes are phased over time and the extent of their impact by student characteristics is, at this time, speculative.
5. Please provide estimates of the number of additional places that will be 'created' according to the government's calculator, each year over ten years.
 - a. And the rates that will be paid for those places.

See below

6. Do you expect to be able to fill those places?

See below

7. Do you expect there will be unmet demand?
 - a. If so, please provide details of the shortfalls for each year, and the basis for those projections.

Q5-7. Since the introduction of the cap in 2018, Western Sydney University has continued to meet the demand (need) for places from our communities. In meeting this need, the University has consistently exceeded its CGS cap.

While the growth in CGS funding reduces the financial burden incurred by the University in meeting demand for higher education in the Greater Western Sydney area., this does not provide any additional places to the University.

Notwithstanding the JRG, University projections indicate that we will substantially exceed the CGS cap for the foreseeable future. Current

estimates, allowing for the increase in CGS funding for the additional places, indicate the University will exceed the cap by 15% under the JRG conditions.

8. Will Students in Cluster 1 immediately start paying at the cap for student's contributions?
 - a. If not, what will the student contribution be?
 - b. Please give details for each field of education code if it varies.
 - c. Please provide these figures for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 from your current modelling.

As per legislation, only commencing students in cluster 1 will be subject to new HECS rates. It is estimated that approximately 65% of students in cluster 1 will be grandfathered in 2021, which drops to under 5% by 2024. By 2025 nearly all students will be paying the higher HECS rate.

9. In your existing modelling to date how much of student contribution will be directed back into that cluster?
 - a. If it is not the same for each area in the cluster, please provide figures for field of education code.
 - b. Please provide these figures for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 from your current modelling.

Please see below.

10. Will the Government contributions to cluster 1 be spent in this cluster or other clusters in 2021?
 - a. If the funding for cluster 1 is not spent in cluster one, to which cluster/s will it be directed?
 - b. Please provide these figures for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 from your current modelling.

The University receives government funding for Commonwealth supported places through bulk grants. While these grants are calculated on the basis of enrolments in funding clusters, the cluster amounts reflect a number of factors in addition to the cost of delivering degree programs, including the government's desire to incentivise study in particular areas and anticipated post-qualification incomes.