

Senate Standing Committees on Economics

The Australian manufacturing industry

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Date of hearing: 11 November 2021

Outcome: Higher Education

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ21-000155

Senator Rex Patrick on 11 November 2021, Proof Hansard page 66

University course funding.

Question

Senator PATRICK: How do you work out that \$21,000 cost per course? How is that calculated?

Mr English: We undertake an annual survey of universities, supported by Deloitte Access Economics, that attributes all of their costs in the teaching and scholarship sides of the universities to the students that it's used to teach. That's the average. I think in the 2019 data there were about 32 Australian participating universities of 38, and we've done that survey on three or four occasions over about five years. That is university data that drives that average cost.

Senator PATRICK: You said the average is \$21,000—I'm rounding to the nearest thousand. What's the range as opposed to the average? What are the minimum and maximum?

Mr English: I may need to take that on notice. I was trying to see if I could pull that out of the report very quickly, but I don't have those numbers.

Answer

The latest available data is for 2018. Using 2018 data indexed to 2021 costs, per the indexation method in section 198-15 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, the estimated minimum 2021 cost for bachelor teaching per EFTSL for engineering and related disciplines is \$13,556. The maximum cost is \$54,887.

See the Department's response to IQ21-000156 for the range of teaching costs for engineering across universities.