

**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. SQ15-000023**

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 137

***NCRIS funding***

**Question**

Senator KIM CARR: Is it correct that \$2.5 billion in taxpayers' money has been invested in the NCRIS infrastructure since the program was established under the Howard government?

Mr English: That is correct.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you tell me whether or not it is true that this is leveraged from state governments, industry, universities, research agencies and the like at a rate of \$3 for every \$1 of Commonwealth investment?

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Senator KIM CARR: I would say to you that Universities Australia is asserting that it is \$3 leveraged for every \$1 from the Commonwealth. You think that is wrong?

Mr English: I am not sure.

Ms Paul: We best have a look at that.

Senator KIM CARR: Fair enough—you dispute that. How much of that would come from overseas?

Mr English: I would have to take that on notice and interrogate our data.

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Senator KIM CARR: How many international users participate in the NCRIS facilities?

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Mr English: We need to take that one on notice as well. Again, there is substantial engagement internationally between the projects and researchers overseas, but I do not have that number now.

**Answer**

Commonwealth national research infrastructure funding programmes have operated since 2006 and provided \$2.5 billion in Commonwealth investment. The funding programmes comprise National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) 2006 (\$542 million) and 2013 (\$185.9 million) allocations, Super Science Initiative (\$989 million), Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme (\$60 million), and research infrastructure projects funded through Education Investment Fund competitive rounds (\$746 million). This Commonwealth investment has leveraged approximately \$1 billion in known cash and in-kind co-investment.

A 2014 survey identified that the in 2013-14, approximately 14 per cent (4900) of researchers who used NCRIS facilities were from outside Australia.