

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000027

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 21.

Higher education website disclaimer

Question

Senator KIM CARR: The interim guidelines require campaign materials to 'enable the recipients of the information to distinguish between facts, comment, opinion and analysis.' That is a requirement of the matter. I note your campaign website, www.highered.gov.au, includes a claim that the government is providing more support, for instance, in regard to student services, which of course quite clearly it is not because the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill introduced into the house on 3 December outlined cuts to higher education funding of \$451 million for the forward estimates and \$5.8 billion over a ten-year period. The website actually says that, 'the department does not make any representation or warranty about the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained on this website.' I'm just wondering how you get the two propositions to line up.

Ms Paul: You are now entering into the debate about the reforms, and I think that is probably more appropriate when we have the high ed people here for outcome 3. I am quite happy to go through it then.

Senator KIM CARR: But there is quite clearly a disclaimer on the government's own website, on the department's website, as to its accuracy.

Ms Paul: I think all websites have that disclaimer. I do not think there is anything new about that. I am happy to check.

Answer

The department stands by the accuracy of the website material on www.highered.gov.au.

The website disclaimer to which this question refers reflects government practice with respect to legal statements published on Australian Government websites.