

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. SQ15-000192

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

UK Browne Review

Question

"Has the department considered the UK Browne Review's proposals for a "progressive" levy on fees charged by universities?
Have you considered or modelled this idea in the Australian context?
Would such a levy pose a constraint on excessive fee rises?
Does this kind of levy generates savings in government outlays?
What uses would such savings be put to? Would they go towards equity measure in higher education? If not, where would they go?
Would these potential savings obviate the need for a 20% cut to the CGS?
Or would they go into consolidated revenue? "

Answer

The department is aware of the UK Browne Review's proposal for a progressive levy on fees charged by universities.

The department is aware of similar proposals put forward in the Australian context by Professors Chapman and Dawkins and has provided technical advice to Government on this model. Modelling undertaken by Professors Chapman and Dawkins indicate that such models would constrain fee rises.

The amount of savings generated by such a proposal would depend on the parameters and this would be a matter for Government, as would decisions about the use of any savings if such a model was adopted.