

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000004**

Senator Simms, Robert provided in writing

***University - casualisation of staff***

**Question**

The release of 2015 higher education staff statistics reported that the level of casual employment at Australian universities is at an all-time high. One of TEQSA's regulatory risk factors is having a "significant reliance on academic staff employed under casual work contracts". Has the department completed any analysis to determine if this shift towards casual employment is having a detrimental impact on staff productivity or the quality of education provided to students?

**Answer**

Expressed in full-time equivalent terms, the level of casualisation among total staff in Australian universities between 2002 and 2015 has been relatively stable, ranging from 14.4 per cent to 16.5 per cent.

The quality of education provided to students has been rising over time, as measured by graduate satisfaction in the Good Teaching Scale from the Course Experience Questionnaire which increased from 77 per cent in 2000 to 90 per cent in 2014.