

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. SQ16-000419

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Sydney University – introduction of fourth year in undergraduate programs

Question

The University of Sydney has flagged the introduction of a fourth year for undergraduate students designed to give deliver “work-ready” skills. This would be separate from the research-oriented honours year. Has the University approached the department about this, with regard to funding this extra year? What has been the outcome?

Answer

The University of Sydney has discussed its curriculum and course structure changes with officers from the Department of Education and Training.

Within the parameters of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA), universities, as autonomous institutions, are best placed to determine their appropriate course structures.

Under HESA, the grant amount the Commonwealth provides for non-designated courses of study as a Table A provider is determined under section 33-5(5). Funding for the extra year of the university’s new course structure will be provided in accordance with HESA.