

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000201

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Impact of HDR/PhD training in the Research Training Program

Question

Has the Department made any evaluation or done any modelling on the expected impact of HDR/PhD training of the new Research Training Program? Does the Department expect that there will be less emphasis on publications during a PhD program? If so, what impact on PhD training does the Department expect this change to have?

Answer

The new Research Training Program arrangements were developed after extensive consultation with the university sector and other stakeholders through the Review of Research Policy and Funding led by Dr Ian Watt AC in 2015.

The Department of Education and Training expects that there will continue to be an emphasis on publications as these are an essential part of the process to communicate the outcomes of research and are an important indicator of research quality in respect of the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) process, in the awarding of competitive research grants, and in international university global ranking systems.

At the same time, the department expects that increased incentives for industry engagement and the additional flexibility provided by the Research Training Program will result in universities delivering more innovative research training, including programs that place students with industry as part of their training program.