

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. SQ17-000363

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah provided in writing.

University funding for teaching and learning infrastructure

Question

How do you expect universities to make up the shortfall, if the Education Investment Fund (EIF) is gutted?

Answer

The Australian Government makes a significant investment in higher education each year. In 2016, this investment totalled \$16.5 billion from the Education and Training portfolio with more spent across Government. Most universities also have significant revenue from other sources, and across the sector universities hold assets worth over \$70 billion dollars and in most cases have healthy cash reserves with low levels of liabilities.

Despite the Government investment in capital through several rounds of the EIF and low interest rates, it is clear that from 2011 to 2013 universities relied primarily on cash operating surpluses for the majority of their infrastructure investment.

The Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group (HEIWG) report, available on the Department of Education and Training's website, found that, in the main, universities are capable of funding teaching and learning infrastructure using their own resource.