

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0070\_15**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Quality and Student Support Group***

In relation to Quality and Student Support, please: (a) List the number of staff in both head count and FTE in this section (b) Outline the activities and program this section is responsible for, including grants and budget measures (c) Provide Departmental and Administered expenses for this section (d) Provide an updated organisation structure for this section

**Answer**

- (a) As at 30 June 2014, the Quality and Student Support Group's head count was 80 with an FTE of 75.
- (b) The activities and program this section is responsible for, including grants and budget measures -

**Quality and Student Support Group**

The Group comprises three branches which deliver policy advice and programs to support students and the quality of higher education. The quality policy initiatives include advice on the Government deregulation agenda for higher education while enhancing quality, supporting the TEQSA Advisory Council, managing student loan schemes including FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP and delivering grants, fellowships and awards to support quality improvement in higher education learning and teaching.

- **Student Support Branch**  
Manages elements of the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) which promotes participation in VET and higher education by providing income contingent loans to students to assist with the cost of their tuition. The Branch works with applicant and existing FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP providers to ensure that Commonwealth funds and eligible students are protected in line with the Program's legislation and guidelines.
- **Quality & Deregulation**  
Provides policy advice on higher education quality issues including the Government's deregulation agenda for higher education. It supports the TEQSA Advisory Council to implement the recommendations of the Review of Higher Education Regulation.
- **Office for Learning & Teaching**  
Leads sustainable quality improvement in higher education learning and teaching through a suite of grants, fellowships and awards under the Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education program.

- (c) Departmental and Administered expenses for this section:
- The Group's departmental budget for the seven months ended 30 June 2014 was \$6.4 million.
  - Quality and Student Support Group has responsibilities across all HELP schemes. The administered budget for the seven months ended 30 June 2014 was \$1.475 billion for Program 3.4 Higher Education Loan Programme.
- (d) The organisation structure for this group is as follows:.

