

**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. ED0071\_15**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Higher Education Funding and Implementation Group***

In relation to Higher Education Funding and Implementation Group, 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; and
- (d) Provide an updated organisation structure for this section .

**Answer**

- a) As at 30 June 2014, the Higher Education Funding and Implementation Group's head count was 70 with an FTE of 65.
- b) Higher Education Funding and Implementation Group consists of two branches, Data and Analysis Branch and Finance and Implementation Branch.
  - **Data and Analysis Branch** is responsible for managing the higher education data collections, administering surveys to collect information about higher education students' experience and outcomes, and measuring and analysing higher education performance. The branch is also responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Review of Reporting Requirements for Universities. The Branch is responsible for implementing the upholding quality – quality indicators for learning and teaching measure announced in the 2014-15 Budget.
  - **Finance and Implementation Branch** is responsible for coordinating changes to the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and associated subordinate legislation and instruments. The branch also administers the Commonwealth Grant Scheme and HELP, manages the development and administration of the Higher Education payments system (UniPay) and maintains forward estimates of expenditure for funding programmes under the HESA. The branch is preparing legislative amendments to implement higher education reforms announced in the 2014-15 Budget, and implementing systems changes to support the reforms.
- c) The Group's departmental budget for the seven months ended 30 June 2014 was \$6.04 million.

The Group's administered budget for 2013-14 was \$6.535 billion:

	<b>\$'000s</b>
Total for Outcome 3.1: Commonwealth Grants Scheme	4,879,005
Various programs under Outcome 3.3: Higher Education Support	
Quality Indicators for Teaching and Learning	600
National Institutes	160,361
Quality Initiatives	20,797
Total for Outcome 3.4: Higher Education Loan Program	1,474,734
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,535,497</b>

d) The organisation structure for this group is as follows:

