

## **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. ED0367\_15**

**Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 67**

#### **Question**

##### **Proliferation of private providers offering subdegree programmes**

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. If you could, I would be interested to know what your expectation is of the proliferation of providers offering subdegree programs. Ms Paul: The proliferation? Senator KIM CARR: That is diplomas and advanced diplomas, is it? CHAIR: Sub-bachelor degrees. Senator KIM CARR: Is that what you mean by a sub-bachelor degree? Mr Griew: Higher education qualifications at the diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree level. Senator KIM CARR: Can you indicate where you think they are going to be located? Mr Griew: We will take that on notice. I stress that any provider in that area will have to be registered. Senator KIM CARR: I understand that. Mr Griew: And subject to any other conditions applied as a result of the constitution changes that are going on. Senator KIM CARR: And how many VET providers are you thinking will likely try to enter the higher education area? Mr Griew: We think some will think that that is a terrific direction for them to head in as a result of the local labour markets they serve, their communities of engagement and their students' aspirations. But they will have to be accredited to do so. Some will find that that is quite a stiff test. Ms Paul: Course by course. Mr Griew: And course by course. Senator KIM CARR: We have heard from TEQSA today that they were not consulted about these matters. That is right, is it? Ms Paul: That is right, because it was dealt with in the budget context. Senator KIM CARR: The budget measures. So they could not be? Ms Paul: That is right. Senator KIM CARR: So how do you know what the numbers are likely to be? Ms Paul: Perhaps we can take on notice how we estimated the growth rate. We did go through for Senator Rhiannon the estimates of student load and so on that we think will be realistic. How many providers that actually represents, of course, is much harder to say because we cannot predict how many providers. There might be one big provider or there might be five small providers and so on. It is more effective for the purposes of estimates to estimate the number of students. We have done that. We went into that. We have estimated, and we can go into that again. In terms of the TEQSA involvement, our main consideration there is an understanding of what you have to go through. You have to go through every single course being accredited and so on. But in terms of the estimates, it is an estimate of the number of students.

**Answer**

The estimates of growth in Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) from expansion of the demand driven funding system to higher education sub-bachelor places have three components:

- The full fee-paying sub-bachelor domestic student load in 2012
- A small annual growth rate of around 3 per cent to allow for growth in year 12 completions
- Growth in domestic sub-bachelor load to reflect removal of the constraints on the supply of sub-bachelor CSPs.