

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. ED0368_15

Senator Whish-Wilson asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 72

Question

University reform policy

Senator WHISH-WILSON: When you say the budget context, Ms Paul—perhaps Senator Ryan might need to answer this—is that because this was an election promise and, therefore, it is a policy of the coalition that they went into the election with? Ms Paul: They did not go to the election with this full suite of reforms. As you know, this is quite a comprehensive suite of reforms that extends the demand driven system to areas it has never been extended to before. It deregulates fees potentially and all the rest of it. It funds ongoing research funding et cetera. So, no, it was in the budget context. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Senator Ryan, can I ask why you did not go to the election with this full set of reforms, given how structurally big they are and how far reaching they are, listening to the rhetoric? Senator RYAN: I can give you an answer on behalf of myself. I was in a different portfolio prior to the election. I was Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business. Since the election, the government has commissioned a number of reviews, which we have discussed throughout the course of the day, particularly the Kemp-Norton review of the demand driven system. But if you would like further information, I am happy to take it on notice on behalf of the government. But I cannot speak because I was not involved in this portfolio prior to the election. Senator WHISH-WILSON: I appreciate that.

Answer

The reforms were presented as part of the 2014-15 Budget.