

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000407

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Commonwealth-supported places in 2016

Question

Can you explain why you expect a drop of 8% in demand for Commonwealth-supported places in 2016, as compared with 2015? What are the relevant factors you have considered?

Answer

The department's 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statement (page 42) shows that Commonwealth supported undergraduate places are expected to increase from 573,800 in 2015 to 626,000 in 2016 (or 9 per cent). The expected 8 per cent decrease in funding for undergraduates in 2016 is a result of the impact of the proposed reduction to Commonwealth Grant Scheme subsidy rates, under the Government's higher education reforms.