

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. SQ15-000408

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing:

Question relating to QON SQ15-000217

"In relation to QON SQ15-000217:

(a) Can the Department confirm that the annual cost to the Commonwealth of a student place in Dentistry is the same as that for Medicine?

(b) Is that cost also the same for Veterinary Science?

(c) Can you confirm that the high cost is one of the reasons that Medicine intakes are restricted?

(d) Why are intakes to Dentistry and Vet Science not restricted, particularly given the soft employment situation for graduates in these fields?"

Answer

(a) – (b) Under current arrangements, units of study relating to dentistry, medicine and veterinary science are all funded under Cluster 8 which attracts a Commonwealth contribution of \$21,385 per equivalent full time student load in 2015. However, only medical units of study attract the additional medical student loading which is \$1309 per equivalent full time student load in 2015.

(c) The number of students studying medicine in Australia is restricted due to the need to manage:

- the flow-on costs to the Health Budget through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- the limited capacity of the health system to provide clinical training internships required for each medical student
- Australia's health workforce requirements.

(d) Places in Dentistry and Veterinary Science are part of the demand driven system.