

## **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. SQ15-000445**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

#### ***Higher Education Participation Program***

##### **Question**

In reference to the budget measure to cut funding to the Higher Education Participation Program by \$5 million in 2015-16: (a) Where in this program will the cut be made? (b) How will the Government compensate for this cut? (c) What is the rationale for this cut? (d) Is it a one-off cut, or will it be recurring? (e) What funding will be provided for HEPP in the out years of the forward estimates?

In relation to HEPP: (a) are the HEPP sub-programmes as set out in the HERR Bill those which will now apply from 2016? (b) Which sub-program provides the \$5 million offset, and what is the profile of the offset over the relevant calendar years?

##### **Answers**

The measure applies to the National Priorities Pool component of HEPP.

This reduction in funds will not impact the capacity of universities to support disadvantaged students. This is because the funds provided to universities to directly support students come from other components of the HEPP and not from the National Priorities Pool.

Funds have been redirected from HEPP in 2015-16 to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) to preserve Indigenous cultural and heritage material. The \$5 million will provide urgent remediation and preservation work on parts of the unique AIATSIS collection of audio-visual materials, manuscripts and publications. It is a one-off measure.

The funding profile for HEPP is:

- \$175.6 million in 2015-16
- \$170.7 million in 2016-17
- \$173.8 million in 2017-18
- \$186.9 million in 2018-19

The sub-programmes set out in the HERR Bill would apply from the time the Bill is passed by the Parliament.

The National Priorities Pool provides for the offset, with \$2.5 million offset in each of the 2015 and 2016 calendar years.