

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. SQ15-000450

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching surveys

Question

The Government says that QILT will essentially implement the recommendations of the report of the Advancing Quality in Higher Education Reference Group, set up by the previous Government:

- (a) Is that the case?
- (b) Are you implementing all of those recommendations? If not, which recommendations are not being implemented?
- (c) Are you implementing recommendation 2.11 – the one recommending the establishment of a Code of Conduct about access to and use of data gathered by the performance measurement instruments?
- (d) Essentially, will QILT will be based on a revamped Course Experience Questionnaire and a revamped Graduate Outcomes Survey, plus a new survey of employer satisfaction?
- (e) With regard to the employer satisfaction survey, a piece by Gavin Moodie from The Conversation refers to “grave methodological difficulties” associated with it. What are these? How do you propose to overcome them?

Answer

- a) Yes.
- b) Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) will implement all recommendations of the Report of the Advancing Quality in Higher Education Reference Group, published in June 2012, with the following exceptions:
 - i. Recommendation 1.3, concerning use of QILT data in university Compacts.
 - ii. Recommendations 2.5 and 4.4, concerning implementation timelines. Implementation started when funding became available for the QILT programme in the 2014-15 Budget.
- c) Yes.
- d) The QILT surveys include:
 - i. The new University Experience Survey, which for the first time measures the experience and satisfaction of current students.
 - ii. A redesigned Graduate Outcomes Survey, examining labour market outcomes of newly qualified higher education graduates. The Graduate Outcomes Survey will continue to include elements of the current Course Experience Questionnaire.
 - iii. Development of a new Employer Satisfaction Survey to assess the generic skills, technical skills and work readiness of graduates.

e) The report of the pilot Employer Satisfaction Survey 2013-14 noted there may have been a positive bias reported in the Employer Satisfaction Survey. This arose due to the relatively low number of graduates, 25 per cent, that were prepared to pass on their supervisor's contact details for follow up. As a result, the report noted that those graduates more likely to pass on their supervisor's contact details were those who had previously been employed or had a stronger labour market attachment. Possible biases in survey responses, and means to address any biases, are being investigated as part of a further trial administration of the Employer Satisfaction Survey in 2014-15.