

**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. SQ15-000454**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Challenges facing the Australian higher education system at the moment***

**Question**

Does the Department agree that given the challenges facing the Australian higher education system at the moment - challenges such as the shift to the demand driven system, necessitating improved pedagogical approaches and educational support; and the move towards an online environment? Don't these trends mean a greater need for support for teaching and learning? How will universities meet these needs?

**Answer**

- The Government supports teaching and learning in higher education institutions through the Promoting Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education programme. Funding for the forward estimates is \$42 million.
- Further opportunities for fostering engagement, innovation, enhanced quality and leading excellence in learning and teaching will be created through the establishment of a new, sector-based institute.
- Universities are autonomous institutions which have academic boards or committees to ensure quality learning and teaching. Many also have centres and mechanisms to support learning and teaching.
- The new institute will also ensure that the Commonwealth's investment in improved learning and teaching practices in higher education is driven by the sector itself.