

**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. SQ15-000465**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Disincentives faced by regional providers (refer SQ15-000151)***

**Question**

In regards to the answer to QON SQ-00015:

- (a) How was this figure of \$100m arrived at? What were the estimates of additional costs and other factors that went into it?
- (b) Why does this funding cut out after three years?
- (c) Do you expect that any disadvantage faced by regionally-based universities, under the planned new arrangements, will have dissipated after three years? How will that be the case? Why won't the disadvantages – such as thin markets and extra costs – persist?

**Answer**

- (a) The amount allocated was a decision of Government.
- (b) The Government decided that a three year funding period would be sufficient to facilitate transition. The decision was informed by the experience of the existing Structural Adjustment Fund (SAF) and similar predecessor programmes, that a one-off three year measure would be sufficient to assist recipient institutions to transition to a fully deregulated system.
- (c) The SAF builds on other measures that will assist universities operating in thin markets, including the extension of the demand-driven system and reforms to the Higher Education Participation Programme.