

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. SQ15-000475

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Higher education package back to the Parliament

Question

According to the PBS, the Government will “strengthen” higher education through “continued pursuit of reforms to the provision of Commonwealth subsidies for students undertaking higher education to ensure that students have a choice of course and higher education provider and that these providers can perform at their best”. Does this mean that the Government will bring the higher education package back to the Parliament? When is the Government planning to bring its bill back into the Senate? What will this bill look like? The Minister has mentioned the possibility of splitting it – to remove the 20% CGS cut to a separate bill. Will that happen? Will there be substantial differences in the content of the bill(s)? In what respects? Will the substance of the bill(s) be different only in minor detail? What details would those be?"

Answer

The Minister has indicated that he intends to bring back the higher education reform package for Parliament to consider in the Spring 2015 Parliamentary sittings. The Minister has also indicated that he will continue to work with senators and other stakeholders to achieve passage of the Government's higher education reforms.

The Government has not at this stage announced any changes to the reform package that was rejected by the Senate on 17 March 2015.