

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. SQ15-000578

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

International research engagement

Question

Is the Department participating in any government process aimed at boosting international research engagement?

- a) If so, please provide details of any such process(es)?
- b) What is the Department's role?
- c) Which other Commonwealth agencies are involved?
- d) Has there been, or is there intended to be, any external consultation? If so, who will be consulted and what form will that consultation take?
- e) What is the timeline for completing the process(es)?

Answer

Yes. The department is participating in the following processes:

Scholarship programmes

- a) The Australian Government provides support for postgraduate and postdoctoral research scholarships and fellowships through the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships programme, the International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) programme and the Fulbright (in Australia) programme.
- b) The department administers the Endeavour and IPRS programmes and provides funding to the Australian-American Fulbright Commission (AAFC) which administers the Fulbright Programme. A departmental officer is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the AAFC.
- c) Scholarship applications are assessed in consultation with experts from a range of different external organisations. An officer from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the AAFC.
- d) Assessment processes are reviewed with external consultation on a needs basis.
- e) Ongoing.

The *Draft National Strategy for International Education*

- a) The Government is developing a National Strategy for International Education that recognises the importance of the link between international education, research, science and innovation. The Government released the *Draft National Strategy for International Education* for consultation in April 2015. The Draft Strategy provides a foundation for Australia to build further international engagements in research.
- b) The Government has announced a Coordinating Council for International Education to oversee the finalisation of the national strategy and an implementation plan. The council is supported by a secretariat in the Department of Education and Training.
- c) The Coordinating Council for International Education includes six Australian Government ministers and assistant ministers with responsibility for policies and programmes to

support international education (the portfolios of education and training, foreign affairs, trade, industry and science, and immigration and border protection). The Interdepartmental Committee on International Education provides policy support to the council. The group includes representation from all the portfolios of the Coordinating Council ministers, as well as the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

- d) The Government released the *Draft National Strategy for International Education* for consultation in April 2015. The Coordinating Council for International Education is progressing its work in close consultation with stakeholders, including through two roundtable discussions led by the council (18 June and 13 August 2015). Invitees include education and training providers, businesses, students, community groups and all levels of government.
- e) It is intended that the final strategy will be released in the second half of 2015.

The Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures (GSO)

- a) The GSO discusses policy settings for international collaboration on large scale research infrastructure at the facility level.
- b) A departmental officer represents Australia on the GSO.
- c) Agencies with responsibility for research infrastructure are consulted on a needs basis.
- d) National research infrastructure facilities are consulted on a needs basis.
- e) Ongoing.

The OECD Global Science Forum (GSF)

- a) The OECD GSF is focused on areas of research and research infrastructure.
- b) A departmental officer represents Australia on the OECD GSF.
- c) Government agencies with an interest in research are consulted on a needs basis.
- d) Universities and other research agencies are consulted on a needs basis.
- e) Ongoing.