

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000772

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 06 May 2016, Proof Hansard page 120.

University of Newcastle proposal for medical school campus at Gosford

Question

Senator Birmingham: The University of Newcastle has had discussions with me.

Senator O'NEILL: Have you had discussions about supporting that facility with any capital investment?

Senator Birmingham: I would have to refresh my memory of the exact nature of that because there are a few different moving parts there. There are, I know, some capital proposals, but offhand I think, from memory, there are also some CSPs for medical positions that are capped that are proposed to be shifted. I would have to check as to exactly which components we might have been talking about.

Senator O'NEILL: Have you made any decisions to fund any of those elements that you just identified?

Senator Birmingham: Again, I would have to take that on notice, given I was struggling to recall the different pieces and where each was at.

Senator O'NEILL: At this point in time, there is no decision by government to put \$12.5 million into that project?

Senator Birmingham: I would have to take on notice whether any components of decisions might have been made.

Answer

On 19 May 2016 Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, announced the Coalition's commitment, should it be re-elected in July 2016, to support the university's request to transfer medical CSPs from Newcastle to the Gosford campus and to provide \$32.5 million in capital funding for the Central Coast medical school precinct.