

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000606

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked on 31 May 2017, Proof Hansard page 91

University of Adelaide funding

Question

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You cannot tell me how much money you are cutting from the University of Adelaide over the next four years in total.

Mr English: My point is that I could run a mechanistic calculation, but my view is that it has limited explanatory value at this point in time, considering this—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I think it is just that you do not want the figures out there.

Senator Birmingham: In fairness, we have referred you to a table published on the very night the policy was announced—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You can give me the figures for 2021 but not cumulatively.

Senator Birmingham: which shows you the impact, relative to current policy settings, or current legislative settings, versus the indicative policy settings that the government has introduced in that given year. Like any such modelling, that is based on a bunch of assumptions, in this case on entirely static enrolments, by the institution. If you want to set out a bunch of assumptions you would like us to undertake and go away and try to come up with something, we can take that question on notice. All Mr English has done is express the fact that all such projections are based on assumptions. What we have done is given a fair indication of what the net impact would be, as Mr Learmonth has said, only insofar as it applies to the teaching and learning funding that flows through to the institutions, noting, of course, that research grants are unaffected, noting that they have significant other external revenue in terms of international students and so on, which means that, overall, whilst this may be showing a 2.7 per cent or 2.8 per cent impact just for those teaching and learning funds in that given year, the ultimate impact is going to be far less than that in terms of their total revenue.

Mr English: I should point out that these figures make no attempt to account for the opportunities now provided to universities, such as through the demand driven system for subbachelor qualifications and the changed arrangements for postgraduate students. So it is an indicative partial picture that is used to show only the sort of impact the efficiency dividend has on their base funding.

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Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like those calculations done for the three universities in South Australia.

Senator Birmingham: What calculations?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want to know cumulatively how much money the department is cutting from the three universities in South Australia over the forward estimates.

Answer

Australian Government funding to the three South Australian universities will continue to grow. If those universities do nothing to change their current plans for enrolments, even after the application of the efficiency dividend they will still see significant growth in base funding for teaching and learning: from an estimated \$861 million in 2017 to over \$1 billion by 2021, an increase of more than 18 per cent.