

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. SQ17-000722

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Commonwealth Grant Scheme

Question

At the top page 48 of the PBS the high level performance criteria for 2.1 Commonwealth Grant Scheme is:

Government makes a direct contribution to the cost of higher education to provide equitable access and support Australia's intellectual and economic development.

What is meant by the statement, "support Australia's intellectual and economic development.". How can that not mean anything but research and scholarship?

Answer

The Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) is one of a number of programs under Outcome 2 that make a contribution to Australia's intellectual and economic development. Through the CGS, the Australian Government subsidises the cost of providing higher education across a wide range of discipline areas and qualification levels. Higher education provides students with the skills and opportunities to engage in a modern economy and is a key driver of innovation and knowledge generation for universities, business and industry alike.