

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. SQ17-000727

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Cross-subsidisation of research and research infrastructure

Question

According to the Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group Final Report 2015: Universities have made clear to the Working Group in consultations that they have responded to research infrastructure underfunding by increasing reliance on the long standing practice of cross-subsidising research and research infrastructure from fees paid by international or domestic students. (Page 57)

With the increase in student fees through the Higher Education Loans Program do you expect cross-subsidisation to intensify, decrease or remain the same?

Answer

As autonomous institutions, universities are responsible for determining the internal allocation of funding for the various activities in which they engage. How universities respond to changes in student contributions will be a matter for each individual university and may vary between universities depending on a range of factors, including their priorities and business planning. Commonwealth funding for teaching, learning and research will continue to grow – by an estimated 23 per cent over the forward estimates – despite the application of the efficiency dividend to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme.