

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0410\_15**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme**

Evidence to the Senate Legislation Committee inquiry into the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014 was offered that the plan was to release guidelines for the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme by June 2015. (a) Will these be draft guidelines or final guidelines? (b) Has a consultation plan been prepared? (c) Who do you plan to consult on the detail of the guidelines? (d) Will there be an approval process for each Provider's scheme? If not how will you ensure that each provider complies with the guidelines? (e) Will students have any rights of appeal to the Department or another Commonwealth instrumentality if they are denied access to a Commonwealth Scholarship by an provider?"

**Answer**

- (a) Draft.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The department will consult with universities, non-university higher education providers who will, or are likely to, be eligible to participate in the scheme, students and peak bodies such as Universities Australia, the Australian Council for Private Education and Training, the Council of Private Higher Education and TAFE Directors Australia
- (d) No. Providers will determine and publish the specific eligibility criteria and assessment procedures for the scheme at their institution. Compliance with the scheme will be a condition of grant for the Commonwealth Grant Scheme and non-compliance will be dealt with in the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines
- (e) Students wishing to appeal a decision in relation to a scholarship under the scheme would be subject to the appeal policies and processes of individual institutions.