

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. ED0706_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Research Training Scheme

The Research Training Scheme student load exceeded the performance indicator of 21,500 by almost 20 per cent (at 25,782) in 2013-14 (Annual Report, p. 72). (a) Please explain the reason for this. (b) Does the Department intend to modify the indicator for future years?

Answer

- a. In 2001 the Government established the Research Training Scheme (RTS) which provided funding to support the training of 21,500 domestic full-time equivalent places each year. It is a matter for higher education providers to determine the number of higher degree by research students supported under the RTS. Efficiencies accrued, along with different costs between disciplines and institutions have led to a higher number of student places being supported over time.
- b. The Department will continue to monitor the appropriateness of its performance indicators.