

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001067

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Watt Review - impact on HASS relative to STEM disciplines

Question

Has any modelling been done to anticipate the extent to which the removal of publications and the increased weighting given to end-user grants in the funding formulas is likely to impact on HASS relative to STEM disciplines, and on pure basic science research relative to applied science and engineering?

- a. What does this modelling show?
- b. Will the department be monitoring such outcomes?
- c. What measures will be implemented to mitigate pernicious effects?

Answer

The Department of Education and Training has not undertaken any modelling on this question.

- a. Not applicable
- b. The department will monitor relevant research data produced by the Australian Research Council and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- c. Publications only drive 7.4 per cent of total funding under the existing arrangements and consequently the removal of publications from the formula is expected to have a relatively small effect. Publications will remain an important indicator of research quality in the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) process, in the awarding of competitive research grants, and in international university global ranking systems. This means that publications from across all disciplines, including those from the Humanities and Social Science (HASS) disciplines, will continue to strongly influence university performance and reputation.