

**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. SQ16-001179**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 105

***Alternative savings***

**Question**

Senator O'NEILL: I want to ask if the minister has sought advice on alternative savings through changes to regulation?

Senator Birmingham: We will not go into the type of advice that I might have sought. But, as I said, the document that was released at the budget is a public document that canvasses different things that could be contemplated as part of a reform agenda.

Senator O'NEILL: Including saves through regulation?

Senator Birmingham: I will have to take that on notice and check the document. Do you have something particular in mind?

Senator O'NEILL: I am probably just like people in the sector, wondering what is going on—looking for some clarity and hoping that you might listen.

**Answer**

The Australian Government is considering a wide range of options as part of its consultation process on higher education reform. A number of these are outlined in its policy options paper, *Driving Innovation, Fairness and Excellence in Australian Higher Education*. While the Government is seeking to reduce regulation that unreasonably restricts or distorts the provision of higher education and the choices available to students, it is considering a broad range of options for reform.