

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Research v Teaching

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rhiannon

QUESTION No.: BI-220

Universities are now highly dependent on income from research and educational services provided to governments and industry. There is an emphasis by government and thus in the sector to build research, strengthen research partnerships with industry and assess research strength of universities against international benchmarks.

1. How this emphasis on research and the income or funding it brings skewing universities' own investment away from teaching students, and towards building its own research profile to attract more research funding and business?
2. How has the emphasis on research and excellence in research influenced the actual numbers of research only/research and teaching staff numbers, compared to actual numbers of teaching and research/teaching staff numbers in Australian universities?
3. What is the amount of all research and associated funding granted to each university; and what is each uni's HERD expenditure over the past 10 years?

ANSWER

1. The department is not able to provide a specific response to this question as investment by universities is a matter for individual universities.
2. From 2002 to 2011 the number of teaching only staff at Australian universities increased by 155 per cent, research only staff numbers increased by 63 per cent, and the increase in teaching and research staff was 23 per cent, however, the causes of these changes have not specifically been identified.
3. Refer to the response to BI-219.