

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: TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY AND STANDARDS
AGENCY (TEQSA)

TOPIC: Private Higher Education Staff Data

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Monday 28 May 2012, page 49)

QUESTION No.: BI-23

Senator RHIANNON: In February we were advised that the private higher education providers are currently not required to report staff data. Will TEQSA be asking private higher education providers to report staff data?

Dr Nicoll: Yes, we will.

Senator RHIANNON: So this will obviously be quite helpful.

Dr Nicoll: In fact, it will be the first time that that will be collected across the whole higher education sector. That is one of the things that TEQSA represents. It is a national regulator of the entire higher education sector, both the universities and the private providers. It means that there is an opportunity to collect data that we will be able to draw upon across all of those.

Senator RHIANNON: I want to check again about the full-time equivalent basis. Are casual staff reported only as a full-time equivalent basis and not as a count of individuals?

Dr Nicoll: I will take that on notice because by the time I find the answer to that question we could well have exceeded the time that you have to ask me questions. I am happy to take on notice what we are proposing—acknowledging, though, that what we have put out initially is for consultation and we have not settled our final information request of providers. I am very happy to provide you with the details of that on notice.

ANSWER

For those providers not currently reporting to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) into the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS), it is proposed that data be collected at unit record level for full-time and fractional full-time (FTFFT) staff but providers will have the option of providing casual staff data at unit record level or as aggregated data as a full-time equivalent (FTE).

It is proposed that in the 2012 Provider Information Request, data pertaining to staff are to be collected from providers for both FTFFT and casual staff.

The casual FTE data provided to TEQSA from HEIMS will be an aggregated dataset in FTE as this is the collection method currently used. This is being reviewed by the department and the sector as part of DIISRTE's 'Higher Education Staff Data Collection Review: Issues Paper' May 2012.