

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0270\_14**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Reduction in funding in Education Grant programs**

Please explain the reduction in funding in Education Grant programmes of \$26,654,000 over the forward estimates listed in the Education Portfolio, explaining:  
a) which programmes will have reduced funding b) the reduced funding profile by programme over the forward estimates c) why these programmes are being cut d) which sub-programmes, awards or grants within these programmes will have their funding reduced e) how these reductions will affect the sector f) whether the sector was informed of these reductions.

**Answer**

This measure was published in the 2013-14 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. Savings were identified through a process where the Government assessed uncommitted programme funding to determine where savings could be achieved. Details of the savings related to the Education portfolio are contained at Attachment A.

Programme/Sub-Programme	Reduction 2013-14 \$m	Reduction 2014-15 \$m	Reduction 2015-16 \$m	Reduction 2016-17 \$m	Reduction TOTAL \$m*	Details
Programme 1.1 – Support for the Child Care System / <i>Long Day Care Capital Grants</i>	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-4.000	The Long Day Care Capital Grants reductions will have little to no effect on the sector because the fund is only available where there are exceptional circumstances. It was deemed that the remaining funding available would be sufficient to cover current and estimated future applications (based on previous year's expenditure). The sector was not formally informed of the change to the funding pool.
Programme 2.3 – Schools Support / <i>Framework for Open Learning</i>	-0.218	-0.890	-0.950	-0.850	-2.908	The Framework for Open Learning Programme savings were achieved through the cessation of discretionary funding to various small projects supported under the programme including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat support for the Australian Information and Communications Technology in Education Committee (AICTEC). This committee has ceased to operate following a review of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood working group structure.</li> <li>• The Computer Technologies for Schools Project. This project which directed surplus government and private sector ICT equipment to schools has been closed as demand for the service has declined steadily in recent years.</li> <li>• Support for the annual IDEA Technology in Education conference and IMS Learning Impact Awards.</li> </ul> Affected stakeholders have been informed about AICTEC's cessation and the closure of the CTFS project. The provider of the annual IDEA Technology in Education conference and IMS Learning Impact Awards has been informed of the Department's withdrawal of future funding.

Programme/Sub-Programme	Reduction 2013-14 \$m	Reduction 2014-15 \$m	Reduction 2015-16 \$m	Reduction 2016-17 \$m	Reduction TOTAL \$m	Details
Programme 2.7 – Youth Support / <i>Youth Engagement</i>	-0.120	-1.120	-1.120	-1.120	-3.480	Organisations immediately impacted by the measure have been formally informed.
Programme 3.1 and 3.4 – Commonwealth Grants Scheme (CGS) and Higher Education Loan Programme / <i>Cluster Fund and Place Loadings and HELP</i>						The 2013-14 Budget provided for additional Commonwealth supported places (CGS and HELP) for sub-bachelor language and tertiary preparation courses and postgraduate allied health, nursing and initial teacher education places. The Australian Government decided not to proceed with allocating the teaching places. This decision did not result in a reduction to the sector because the additional places had not yet been allocated.  Universities were informed of their allocation of additional places, and the decision not to allocate additional places for postgraduate initial teacher education courses, in December 2013
Revenue	0.000	-0.016	-0.062	-0.129	<b>-0.207</b>	
Expense	-1.574	-3.627	-4.370	-4.695	<b>-14.266</b>	
NET	-1.574	-3.611	-4.308	-4.566	<b>-14.059</b>	
Programme 3.3 – Higher Education Support / <i>Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education</i>	-0.500	-0.500	-0.500	-0.500	<b>-2.000</b>	The impact on the sector resulting from the reductions to the PELTHE programme will be minimised through spreading the reduction evenly across all elements of the programme.  The grant savings were communicated to the sector as part of the overall announcement through the 2013-14 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook announcement.
TOTAL REVENUE	0.000	-0.016	-0.062	-0.129	<b>-0.207</b>	
TOTAL EXPENSE	-3.412	-7.137	-7.940	-8.165	<b>-26.654</b>	
TOTAL NET	-3.412	-7.121	-7.878	-8.036	<b>-26.447</b>	