

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

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

#### **Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International**

#### **Department of Education Question No. ED0293\_14**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Higher Education Funding branch**

1. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Higher Education Funding branch in the Department of Education? What programs is the Higher Education Funding branch in the Department of Education responsible for?
2. How many FTE positions are allocated to the Higher Education Funding branch in the Department of Education? Please break these down into actual headcounts, and provide the number of staff on non-ongoing employment arrangements.

#### **Answer**

1. At the time of the February 2014 Senate Estimates, the Higher Education Funding Branch
  - provided advice on funding policy for Commonwealth supported and full fee paying student places at Australian higher education institutions;
  - administered the Commonwealth Grant Scheme, including developing CGS funding agreements with higher education institutions;
  - administered the HECS-HELP and OS-HELP schemes; the FEE-HELP scheme for providers listed in Table A and B of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA); and National Institutes funding;
  - maintained forward estimates of expenditure for funding programmes under the Higher Education Support Act (HESA) 2003;
  - coordinated legislative amendments, legislative instruments and guidelines relevant to HESA; and
  - managed the development and administration of the Higher Education payments system (UniPay); and
  - provided secretariat support for the Review of the Demand Driven System.
2. As at 26 February 2014, there were 28 FTE positions. The headcount is 28 staff. There is one staff on secondment from ANU and no staff in on-ongoing employment arrangements.