

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency **3**

DEEWR Question No. EW0118_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Responses to Bradley Review

The government has also accepted the Bradley review's recommendation around lifting participation rates of students for low SES backgrounds. There is again a disparity in the funding recommended by Bradley and the funding provided in the budget.

- (a) Can you detail what funding measures in the budget will go towards this aim and how they differ from the Bradley review?
- (b) Is the Government confident these participation targets can be met?

Answer

Responses to Bradley Review

- (a) The Budget provides an additional \$394 million in funding, bringing funding to support the Government's low SES participation ambition to a total of \$437 million over the next four years (including departmental funding).

The increased level of funding will deliver:

- A new partnership program worth \$108 million over four years to link universities with schools, vocational education and training providers, and adult education. This will promote leading practice, increase the aspirations of students and contribute to higher rates of education attainment of low SES students including Indigenous students and students from regional and remote areas.
- A student-related loading, worth \$325 million over four years – including around \$43 million from the existing Higher Education Equity Support Program. This loading will be based on the numbers of low SES students enrolled in institutions. Under this initiative, the loading per student will be increased from the current level under the Higher Education Equity Support Program of approximately \$100 per student in 2009 to about \$1,140 in 2012.

In 2010, the funding to support the low SES participation ambition will be about 2 per cent of teaching and learning grants, and will increase to about 3 per cent in 2011. By 2012, equity funding will be brought broadly into line with Recommendation 31 of the Bradley Review to increase it to 4 per cent of teaching and learning grants.

From 2012, new performance funding will reward institutions that meet agreed targets in key areas such as improving the quality of teaching and learning and the outcomes for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. In 2010, the Government will work with the higher education sector to develop a set of performance indicators. The indicators will include measures of success for equity groups as well as measures of the quality of teaching and learning.

The Government is also introducing reforms to student income support that are critical to meeting the target of 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level being students from low SES backgrounds.

In consultation with the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council, the Government will review the effectiveness of measures to improve the participation of Indigenous students in higher education.

- (b) To achieve the ambition that, by 2020, 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level should be people from low SES backgrounds, over the next four years an additional 10,000 low SES students will need to enrol and by 2020 around an additional 55,000 low SES students will need to enrol compared with the number enrolled in 2007. The Government considers that this growth is achievable.