

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0670_12

Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.

Question

Demand Driven funding

Has the government budgeted for providing any financial assistance to mainstream or regional universities that experience budget crisis as a result of demand driven funding, if they cannot compete with elite universities that are accepting more students?

Answer

The Australian Government is providing \$400 million through the Structural Adjustment Fund (SAF) to assist universities to adapt to the new student demand driven system which will be introduced from 1 January 2012.

SAF is intended to assist those universities make changes necessary to establish their longer term financial stability and to ensure that all students have access to a high quality teaching and learning experience.

Details on the successful SAF projects that have been announced by the Minister can be found at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/Funding/Pages/SAF.aspx>.