



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

HON. ASERI RADRODRO

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2025

252/2025

WRITTEN QUESTION

Hon. Hem Chand to ask the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the criteria used to allocate Government grants to higher education institutions.

Response

1. The allocation of Government grants to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is a matter of great importance, as it directly supports the delivery of quality education, institutional development, and the alignment of tertiary education with our national priorities. **Section 7 of the Higher Education Act 2008**, dictates mandated functions of the Commission, one of which is to allocate government funds marked for higher education annually to higher education institutions according to a transparent and well -

publicized criteria for Allocation. Government grants to HEIs are allocated through a mixed funding model that combines per capita elements with institutional performance and planning assessments. This model was developed by consultants through the creation of Costed Operational Templates and the Annual Higher Education Data Collection process, both managed by the Higher Education Commission Fiji (HECF).

This template designates from **Higher Education Regulations 2009 specifically from Section 54** which outlines the criteria for grants administered by the Higher Education Commission in Fiji.

2. Particularly, Part 7 of the Regulations deals with Grants and Funding mechanisms for higher education institutions and **Section 54** specifically outlines the criteria and conditions under which the Higher Education Commission (HEC) may award grants to institutions. Under this framework, each fully registered HEI is required to submit detailed information to HECF, which includes:
 - Output areas of funding requests;
 - Operational cost breakdowns;
 - Student enrolment and completion data;
 - Staffing data and workforce forecasts;
 - Educators' listings;

- Strategic, business, procurement, and risk management plans; and
- Financial documents such as bank statements, annual reports, and audited financial statements.
- Forecast enrolment data.
- Provisional enrolment data.
- Person to post listing and workforce planning.
- Other relevant supporting documents.

This data enables HECF to comprehensively assess the financial and operational performance of each institution. As a result, larger HEIs with higher student and staff populations generally attract higher funding allocations, while smaller institutions receive proportionate funding based on their scale and capacity.

3. The grants provided to HEIs cover a range of institutional needs, including salaries, program delivery, research, rent, utilities, advertising, IT system upgrades, and the development of new academic programs.
4. An important component of the allocation process is the review of grant utilization from the previous year. If an institution has

fully utilized and acquitted its grant as approved, that amount forms the base grant for the following financial year. Institutions may also submit requests for additional funds to support expansion, innovation, or new programs, which must be justified with supporting documents aligned with their, strategic, workforce, procurement, Annual report and business plans. These requests are assessed alongside Costed Operational Plans and other financial and planning documents.

5. The Government adopts a balanced mixed model which considers:

- Financial and operational performance;
- Institutional capacity and compliance;
- Enrolment and completion data; and
- The effective utilization of previous grants.

6. This balanced approach ensures that Government funding allocations are fair, transparent, and evidence-based, thereby promoting accountability, sustainability, and quality across Fiji's higher education sector. It also reinforces the alignment

of institutional outcomes with national development and workforce priorities.

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