

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000538

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 128

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ16-000888

Research and analysis on the impact a loan fee would have on the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)

Question

Senator O'NEILL: If we refer back to question on notice 888, that might make things a little clearer. The answer says:

Yes, the Department of Education and Training has undertaken research and analysis on the impact a loan fee would have on the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP).

That is what I am referring to. My question is: can we have a copy of it?

Mr Learmonth: I think, consistent with the advice or the answer that was provided, that work is fundamentally in the public domain already, the work done by Professor Chapman and Dr Higgins and the Grattan Institute.

CHAIR: There we go. Thank you for the citation.

Mr Learmonth: It is in the public domain.

Senator O'NEILL: And it is under the Grattan Institute.

Mr Learmonth: I think there are more than that. Bruce Chapman, I think, is ANU. There are some from the ANU and some from the Grattan Institute. The most recent one I am aware of is Andrew Norton from the Grattan institute.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: When you say it is in the public realm—

Mr Learmonth: It will have been published—from memory, there have been media articles, certainly, about the last one from Grattan. We can find you some references if that will help.

Answer

In analysing research on the impact a loan fee would have on the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP), the department has reviewed the following work:

- Andrew Norton and Ittima Cherastidtham, *Shared interest: a universal loan fee for HELP* (2016), the Grattan Institute, available at: www.grattan.edu.au/report/shared-interest-a-universal-loan-fee-for-help/
- Bruce Chapman, *The case for a fixed 15% fee on all student loans* (2016), The Conversation, available at: www.theconversation.com/the-case-for-a-fixed-15-fee-on-all-student-loans-69993
- Timothy Higgins and Bruce Chapman, *Feasibility and design of a tertiary education entitlement in Australia: modelling and costing a universal income contingent loan* (2015), the Mitchell Institute for Health and Education Policy, available at: www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/reports/feasibility-and-design-of-a-tertiary-education-entitlement-in-australia/
- Bruce Chapman and Timothy Higgins, *HELP Interest Rate Options: Equity and Costs* (2014), available at: www.images.theage.com.au/file/2014/07/31/5639573/Help_interest_rate_options_report.pdf