

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Higher Education, Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000166

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Growth of VET FEE-HELP

Question

Over the next few years the number of students accessing VET FEE-HELP is expected to grow to around 250,000 students – can the department provide details by course, student profile and state/region of the expected growth in students accessing the scheme?

- a. What was the average VET FEE-HELP debt in 2012-13
- b. What was the average VET FEE-HELP debt in 2013-14?
 - c. Has the department undertaken any forecasting of expected VET FEE-HELP debt by state?
 - d. At what rate does the department expect the average VET FEE-HELP debt to grow over the next (i) year, (ii) three years, (iii) five years?

Answer

No. Projected forward estimates for VET FEE-HELP are modelled on projected growth of VET FEE-HELP assisted Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) at the aggregate national level.

- a. The average VET FEE-HELP debt for 2012 is \$5917 per EFTSL. NOTE: VET FEE-HELP data is reported by calendar year.
- b. The average VET FEE-HELP debt for 2013 is \$9549 per EFTSL. NOTE: VET FEE-HELP data is reported by calendar year.
- c. No.
- d. Average VET FEE-HELP debt for full fee paying places is expected to grow by a 5 per cent flat rate across all forward years. This growth rate takes into account increase in fees and inflation.