

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0363_15

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 61

Question

Average HECS debt - engineering

Senator KIM CARR: Tell me, an engineer's typical HECS debt at the moment is what? Mr Griew: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

The average HECS debt for a Commonwealth supported engineering student would currently be around \$33,500 on graduation assuming:

- the student commenced study at the beginning of 2010 and graduated at the end of 2013;
- the student only took units of study classified as engineering- Band 2, noting that not all units of study in a course are necessarily in the same student contribution band (e.g. an engineering student may take some Band 3 units such as law or accounting); and
- the student is charged the maximum student contribution amount for each unit.