

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. ED0384_15

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 102

Question

Students with disabilities

Senator KIM CARR: .. On students and graduates with disabilities, has the government or department done any modelling on the projected HECS debts and repayments periods for graduates with disabilities? Mr Griew: Not specifically. Senator KIM CARR: I am just wondering whether these are the graduates more likely to enjoy lower average graduate incomes? Mr Griew: I would have to take that on notice. I do not know off the top of my head. Senator KIM CARR: I am wondering how much thought you have actually given to this issue. Mr Griew: We have a range of programs, including HELP, which support the participation of people with disabilities. I am simply making the point that I would have to take on notice the question of whether graduates who are people with a disability have lower graduate earnings. Senator KIM CARR: What about part-time study? Do we have any material on people with disabilities studying part time? Are they in significant numbers? Mr Griew: We might do. Again, I would have to take that on notice. Senator KIM CARR: What is the effect on the real rate of interest for people who are studying part time, such as people with disabilities? Would there be a significant increase in their debts while they are still studying? Mr Griew: We have taken on notice the question of whether there is more part-time study among students with a disability. Assuming that there is, then there are two things that happen when you study part time: you accrue fee-rated debt slower and you may have some income at the same time if you are a part-time student. That might include a bit less of the proportion of people with a disability or students part time. It is a bit hard to be conclusive about that, I would think. But we will take on notice whether there is any data we hold or studies that might shed light on that.

Answer

Are graduates with disabilities more likely to enjoy lower average graduate incomes?

Evidence from the Graduate Destination Survey indicates graduates with disabilities enjoy the same graduate median salaries.

Do we have any material on people with disabilities studying part time? Are they in significant numbers?

Enrolments for domestic students with disability by type of attendance, 2005-2012
Higher Education Statistics

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
2005	16,103	11,866	27,969
2006	16,460	12,143	28,603
2007	17,686	12,558	30,244
2008	17,978	12,894	30,872
2009	19,693	13,943	33,636
2010	22,730	15,372	38,102
2011	25,438	16,673	42,111
2012	28,580	17,913	46,493
2013	30,703	19,376	50,079

Note

1. Data excludes students where permanent home address is overseas