

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. ED0386_15

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 111

Question

Postgraduate HECS liabilities

Senator KIM CARR: All right, you can correct my impression here. How many postgraduate higher degree students have HECS liabilities? Mr Griew: I do not have that off the top of my head, but I do have a figure here which is useful. About 56 per cent of domestic higher degree by research students start their degree when they are over the age of 30. Many are highly likely to have spent some time in the work force and may have paid off their HECS liability. Senator KIM CARR: They may have. Take this on notice: how many do have liabilities? Mr Griew: Sure, we will take that on notice. Senator KIM CARR: They may have spent time in the work force working two days a week at a local social welfare organisation. Ms Paul: We will take it on notice.

Answer

The Department does not hold data on the number of higher degree by research students with Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts.