

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000311

Senator Sinodinos, Arthur asked on 03 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 59

Increased student contributions for maths and science (2012–13 budget)

Question

Senator SINODINOS: And no-one has suggested otherwise? In the 2012-13 budget, the government increased student contributions for maths and science students for existing students. What was the associated saving?

Mr Griew: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator SINODINOS: Was it around \$300 million?

Mr Griew: It could have been. It was significant. The first measure that put back the band 2 rate grandfathered the existing cohort of students. The second one applied it—

Senator SINODINOS: Then the second one?

Mr Griew: to everybody in the system.

Senator SINODINOS: Took them all in. Were the STEM incentives abolished by the Higher Education

Support Amendment Act 2012? Is that right? Was that implementing the 2012-13 budget measures?

Mr Griew: I think that is correct. Again, we will correct that on notice if I am not right. That would be the mechanism through which you would do it. The timing is right.

Answer

It was estimated that the increase in student contributions for existing maths and science students would provide savings of around \$314.9 million over 2012–13 to 2015–16.

The increase in student contributions was implemented through the *Higher Education Support Amendment (Student Contribution Amounts and Other Measures) Act 2012*.