

**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. SQ15-000422**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***HELP loans***

**Question**

In regards to HELP loans:

(a) The PBS predicts that the average amount of debt for a borrower will go up from \$17,500 now to \$22,500 in 2018-19. Can you provide me with the assumptions that underlie those figures?

(b) Can you provide me with figures showing the average debt for each strand of the HELP Program – HECS-HELP and so on?

**Answer**

(a) The 'average amount of debt' performance indicator published in the 2015-16 Budget is the average amount of outstanding debt. The forecast growth in the average outstanding amount of debt over the forward estimates is based on historical growth over the last three years, continued growth in student fees over the forward estimates and the impact of new policy.

(b) The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) consists of HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP, SA-HELP, OS-HELP and VET FEE-HELP schemes. The debts incurred from each of these schemes form part of an accumulated HELP debt for individuals and therefore cannot be disaggregated by type of scheme.