

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. SQ15-000443

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

HELP Loan Scheme

Question

In reference to the answer to QON SQ-000171:

- (a) Does rise in "average loan values" reflect movement in fee levels?
- (b) What other factors does it reflect?
- (c) Can you tell us what increase in average loan values you expect to see by 2017-18?
- (d) What is that average figure?
- (e) What is the current average figure?

Answer

(a) - (b) The "Average loan values", in reference to the answer to QON SQ15-000171, refers to the average amount of fees for each HELP scheme that a student defers payment for a given year. The rise in the average loan values reflects movement in fee levels, the expected changing mix of courses that students will undertake that attract different level of fees and what proportion of fees they decide to defer.

(c) - (d) No. The department is unable to disclose Government estimates of student contributions or the assumptions underpinning these as this may influence the operation of the market.

(e) The table below provides the most up to date, currently available, actual data on the average loan value for each HELP scheme (based on 2013 student enrolment data).

	HECS-HELP	FEE-HELP	VET FEE-HELP	OS-HELP	SA-HELP
Average loan value	\$6,390	\$16,626	\$10,621	\$5,803	\$206

The amounts for HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and VET-FEE HELP are per equivalent full time student load (EFTSL). The amount for OS-HELP represents the average amount for each six months loan. The amount for SA-HELP is per student.