

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. SQ15-000473

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

HELP debt

Question

In regards to the Minister's plan to publish by individual provider details of HELP debt not expected to be repaid:

- (a) Can you provide details of what steps the department has taken to establish the feasibility of this plan?
- (b) Has the department reached any conclusions about its feasibility?
- (c) When do you estimate that you will have finished examining this plan, and come to a conclusion on its implementation?
- (d) What would be the policy goals of this plan?

Answer

- (a) The Department has been examining opportunities for data improvements across the HELP program, and in particular, improved information on the causes of debt not expected to be repaid.
- (b) No
- (c) Timing and implementation arrangements have not yet been determined.
- (d) While this matter is still under consideration, the Government is always interested in exploring ways of improving transparency and constraining the level of HECS debt that is not repaid, while at the same time maintaining access and equity for students.