

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. SQ15-000531

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Budget impact on higher education system

Question

With reference to the higher education system and the impact on the Budget in the current forward estimates period 2015-16 to 2018-19:

(1) What is the impact on the Budget for each year of the current forward estimates period of pausing indexation on Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) debts for people who earn below the minimum HELP repayment threshold and have primary care of a child under five years of age.

(2) What is the impact on the Budget for each year of the current forward estimates period of amending the Commonwealth Grant Scheme subsidies for non-university higher education providers and for sub-bachelor courses delivered by universities.

(3) What is the impact on the Budget for each year of the current forward estimates period of amending the Commonwealth Grant Scheme subsidies for non-university higher education providers.

(4) What is the impact on the Budget for each year of the current forward estimates period of amending the Commonwealth Grant Scheme subsidies for sub-bachelor courses delivered by universities.

(5) What is the revised impact on the Budget for each year of the current forward estimates period of extending Commonwealth Grant Scheme subsidies to:

(a) non-university higher education providers.

(b) sub-bachelor courses delivered by universities.

(6) What is the impact on the Budget for each year of the current forward estimates period of establishing a scholarship fund within the Higher Education Participation Programme (HEPP) with a focus on allocating funding to universities with high proportions of students from low socio-economic status backgrounds.

Answer

(2) – (4) The department is not able to split the cost of amending Commonwealth Grant Scheme subsidies for sub-bachelor courses between universities and non-university higher education providers (NUHEPs).

The financial impact of these remaining questions over 2015-16 to 2018-19 is set out in the table below.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Pausing HELP debt indexation for primary carers of children aged under 5 years	-37.2	-49.0	-60.3	-71.9
Revised impact of extending CGS subsidies to bachelor courses at NUHEPs	-69.7	-143.9	-153.7	-164.0
Revised impact of extending CGS subsidies to sub-bachelor courses at all institutions	-52.7	-134.0	-192.2	-251.3
Establishing a scholarships fund in Higher Education Participation Programme	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0