

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/005) - HELP Debt payments - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Reynolds, Linda (L&CA 29) asked:

Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you. One final question: in relation to HELP debt repayments, I understand that your department now has a role in assisting in the collection of that money from overseas. Is that correct?

Mr Pezzullo: I am not personally seized of that matter. I will see if one of the deputies is across that. I presume that goes to foreign students who have come here and undertaken study.

Senator REYNOLDS: Yes, and Australian students who have gone overseas.

Mr Pezzullo: I see.

Senator REYNOLDS: I am happy for you to take that on notice if you like.

Mr Pezzullo: We might come back to you through the course of the day.

Answer:

The Government will provide \$0.1 million to the department in the 2015-16 financial year to support recovery of new and existing Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) debts from Australians residing overseas.

These funds will allow for enhancements to be made to the department's systems to allow improved data matching of overseas trip records with the Australian Taxation Office.

The department will also distribute new HELP information leaflets to ensure debtors are aware of their obligation to repay their debt.