EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 - Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E791_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Update on HECS debt

1. Can you provide an update of the table provided in answer to House of Representatives QON 1284, tabled 18 March 2003, giving details of the number of persons leaving Australian higher education each year by size of HECS debt?
2. Can you provide that data disaggregated by HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP, OS-HELP and any other scheme?

Answer:

Update on HECS debt

1. The Australian Taxation Office has provided the data for the updated table at Attachment A. The table is for HELP debt, which includes previous HECS debt. The table has been prepared on a similar basis to that provided in response to Question 1284 in 2003 and uses data on people who incurred no further debt after the relevant year; that is they either completed, withdrew or suspended studies. Some of these people could potentially resume studies at a later date.

2. On 1 June 2006, all outstanding HECS debts, as well as debts incurred under HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP, became an accumulated HELP debt. The accumulated HELP debt cannot be disaggregated.

ATTACHMENT A

Current HELP debt distribution by year in which student most recently incurred a debt (as at March 2007)

Range of loan balances	Total number of people with a debt (from 1989 to 2005)	%	Cum Total %	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
$1 000 and under	43,860	5.4%	5.4%	2,001	1,497	1,536	1,461	1,386	1,633	1,845	2,052	2,168	2,467	2,743	2,774	2,759	3,187	3,374	3,950	7,027
$1 000.01 to $2 000	56,396	7.0%	12.4%	2,472	2,102	2,039	1,946	1,923	2,505	2,725	3,035	2,827	3,081	3,418	3,398	3,513	4,249	4,193	4,977	7,993
$2 000.01 to $4 000	105,305	13.0%	25.4%	2,491	2,978	3,286	3,293	3,379	3,756	4,167	4,484	5,593	6,181	7,036	7,494	7,756	8,351	8,602	10,121	16,337
$4 000.01 to $6 000	89,877	11.1%	36.6%	17	2,343	2,289	2,646	2,533	2,752	3,020	3,428	4,873	5,688	6,541	7,269	7,144	8,003	8,268	8,968	14,095
$6 000.01 to $8 000	76,214	9.4%	46.0%	-	316	1,650	1,950	2,431	2,522	2,693	3,022	3,643	4,558	5,427	6,216	6,704	7,084	7,487	7,519	12,992
$8 000.01 to $10 000	73,930	9.2%	55.2%	-	6	1,312	2,029	2,397	2,484	2,663	2,907	3,373	4,576	5,256	6,068	6,872	7,630	7,809	8,034	10,514
$10 000.01 to $12 000	70,843	8.8%	63.9%	-	-	30	975	1,589	1,818	1,939	2,092	2,438	2,999	4,632	5,652	6,672	8,065	9,037	9,911	12,994
$12 000.01 to $14 000	65,589	8.1%	72.0%	-	-	1	174	721	1,183	1,530	1,597	1,919	2,346	3,697	5,170	6,411	7,950	9,587	10,411	12,892
$14 000.01 to $16 000	54,669	6.8%	78.8%	-	-	-	8	181	427	583	760	951	1,204	1,943	3,547	4,948	6,806	8,703	11,219	13,389
$16 000.01 to $18 000	49,505	6.1%	84.9%	-	-	-	-	35	136	231	332	482	616	1,142	2,645	4,319	6,191	8,221	10,528	14,627
$18 000.01 to $20 000	31,983	4.0%	88.9%	-	-	-	-	2	30	83	122	205	303	562	1,414	2,686	4,099	5,626	7,636	9,215
$20 000.01 to $30 000	73,204	9.1%	98.0%	-	-	-	-	-	4	30	79	142	264	507	1,799	4,427	8,257	13,145	18,715	25,835
$30 000.01 to $40 000	13,453	1.7%	99.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	23	75	251	847	2,135	4,054	6,066
$40 000.01 to $50 000	2,455	0.3%	99.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	55	271	768	1,349
Over $50,000	640	0.1%	100.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	51	173	415
Total HELP debtors	**807,923**			6,981	9,242	12,143	14,482	16,577	19,250	21,509	23,910	28,614	34,285	42,927	53,522	64,473	80,775	96,509	116,984	165,740

NOTES: On 1 June 2006, all outstanding HECS debts, as well as debts incurred under HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP, became an accumulated HELP debt. The accumulated HELP debt cannot be disaggregated as indexation and repayments arrangements apply to the one outstanding amount.

Includes only people who incurred no further HELP debt after that year, that is, they either completed, withdrew or suspended study and have not undertaken any further study with a HELP loan since that time.