

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0478_14

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Selling student loans, or securitising these loans

1. Has the Department prepared any papers or done any work looking into selling student loans, or securitising these loans?
2. Has the Department provided any information to the Commission of Audit, directly or indirectly, on securitising, privatising, or selling student loans?
3. Has the Department provided any other information about student loans to the Commission of Audit, including on lowering the repayment threshold for students?
4. Did the Department provide any such information to the Review of the Demand Driven System?
5. Has the Department been contacted by either Treasury, or the Department of finance, to assist with any form of modelling, or policy advice on selling or securitising student loans?
6. Has the Department provided any information, directly or indirectly, to the Commission of Audit on lowering the HELP debt repayment threshold?
7. Is the Department aware of any research or analysis, including that which it may have undertaken or commissioned itself, of the potential impacts of removing the caps on maximum student HECS contributions for Commonwealth supported students? This can include
 - the likely increase in student contributions Commonwealth supported students are likely to face as result of market based price competition,
 - the capacity of students to participate in higher education at a university of their choice, based on their academic merit rather than capacity to pay,
 - the average Commonwealth supported students HECS debt and the total level of accumulated HECS over time,
 - the default rate on HECS debt repayments,
 - the cost of writing off the value of HECS debts that are likely never to be repaid.or any other related research or analysis]

Answer

1. No.
2. The Department provided the Commission of Audit with general information about the HELP scheme.
3. The Department provided the Commission of Audit with general information about the HELP scheme.
4. The Department provided the Review of the Demand Driven System with general information about the HELP scheme.
5. No.
6. The Department provided the Commission of Audit with general information about the HELP scheme.
7. Yes. This policy was announced as part of the 2013-14 Budget. The Department costed the policy and provided advice on it to the Government. The Department is also aware that a number of organisations have undertaken research and analysis into these matters such as the Group of Eight and the Grattan Institute.