

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

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

DEST Question No. E316_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Please indicate the average HECS liability incurred per EFTSL nationally, by state/territory and by institutions for:

- a) Students commencing in 2005 (if full year figures are not yet available, please provide data for the first half year).
- b) An estimate for all students in 2009.

Answer:

Average HECS-HELP liabilities

- a) Data for the first half of 2005 will be available in September 2005.
- b) The Department estimates that the average student contribution for an equivalent full-time student load in 2009 will be \$6,108. This figure is based on the average increase in student contributions in 2005. It does not take account of any decisions that providers may take under the provisions of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to apply different contribution rates to particular student cohorts.

The Department estimates student contribution liabilities at the aggregate level and cannot break this down by State or Territory or by higher education provider. The estimates for additional revenue from increased student contributions provided in DEST Question No E311_06 (which were broken down by higher education provider) were produced by calculating the increase in revenue by simply applying the percentage increase in student contribution levels to an estimate of the students affected by the increase. This approach cannot be taken to calculating the formal estimates of student contribution liabilities.