

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000054

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 92

Aggregate of education measures

Question

Senator KIM CARR: The Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program remains?
Ms Borthwick: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the aggregate of that across the forward estimates?

Senator Birmingham: The aggregate of the programs you just mentioned?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, those program measures I have just outlined. The Parliamentary Budget Office is suggesting a total to 2025-26 of \$36 billion. Is that correct?

Ms Borthwick: I am not sure which document you are referring to. We do not have that.

Senator KIM CARR: A PBO report, Unlegislated measures carried forward in the budget estimates—February 2016 update.

Senator Birmingham: I suspect, unless the officials have done an analysis of that PBO report—which they might have—we will have to take it notice.

Ms Borthwick: Yes, I think it is better if we take it on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Would you, please?

Mr Cook: Is that the total of all legislative measures, Senator, because it seems like a very large number?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, it is. That is all measures.

Mr Cook: Okay.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you give me an aggregate of the education measures? Sorry, I will make it even more explicit—the higher education measures that I have just listed. What is the aggregate amount for those seven items? Can that be done?

Mr Cook: We will take it on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Obviously, I want it across the forward estimates, but I am interested to know, because they make these calculations out to 2025, 2060, if you have that figure?

Ms Borthwick: No, so we will provide that on notice.

Answer

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) publication *Unlegislated measures carried forward in the budget estimates – February 2016 update* details unlegislated measures across Government inclusive of the Department of Education and Training (Education) measures to 2025-26. The department is unaware of the assumptions used by the PBO.

The following table lists the requested higher education measures for the forward estimates period as at Budget 2014-15 in fiscal balance terms. The agreed costings for these measures only include figures for the forward estimates period at the time of that budget.

Measure title	2013-14 \$m	2014-15 \$m	2015-16 \$m	2016-17 \$m	2017-18 \$m
A sustainable Higher Education system – Higher Education Reward Funding — cessation	8.513	26.157	26.947	28.465	31.061
Expanding opportunity – a more effective Higher Education Participation Programme	0.000	7.500	12.500	13.750	17.500
A sustainable Higher Education Loan Programme – repayment thresholds and indexation	0.000	334.235	719.994	905.719	1,192.644
A sustainable Higher Education Loan Programme – HECS-HELP benefit — cessation	0.000	0.000	28.366	28.990	29.715
A sustainable Higher Education system – Research Training Scheme — student contributions	0.000	0.000	33.377	68.340	71.951
Education grant programmes - reduced funding (Quality Initiatives - Maths and Science Teachers)	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.172	4.406
A sustainable Higher Education system – Australian Research Council - efficiency dividend	0.000	0.000	25.999	24.064	24.882
Total	8.513	367.892	847.183	1,071.500	1,372.159

The measure *A Sustainable Higher Education Loan Programme – repayment thresholds and indexation* was subsequently amended to remove the impact of the indexation component in the 2014-15 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.