

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. SQ16-000400

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

HECS/HELP - historical data

Question

Please provide the following tables of historical HECS/HELP data (time frame is since 1989 until most recent available data).

- HECS/HELP repayment thresholds, in both nominal terms and 2015 dollars.
- HECS/HELP student contributions per band/unit of study, in both nominal terms and 2015 dollars.
- HECS/HELP Commonwealth contribution per funding cluster/unit of study, in both nominal terms and 2015 dollars.
- HECS/HELP repayment rates, in nominal terms.

Answer

Please find attached tables showing the following:

- HECS/HELP repayment thresholds and repayment rates, by year, 1989-2016, in both nominal terms and 2014-15 dollars (Attachment A).
- HECS/HELP student contribution rates by discipline*, by year, 1989-2016, in both nominal terms (Attachment B) and 2015 dollars** (Attachment C).
- HECS/HELP Commonwealth contribution rates by discipline, by year, 2005-2016***, in both nominal terms (Attachment D) and 2015 dollars* (Attachment E).

*These tables are displayed by discipline rather than band or unit of study given the movement of disciplines between bands over time, and the large number of units of study.

**2016 student and Commonwealth contribution rates are provided in nominal terms only as Consumer Price Index rates for 2016 are not yet publicly available.

***The Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS), introduced in 2005 under the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA), provides Australian Government funding for each Commonwealth supported place (equivalent full-time student load - EFTSL) according to the funding cluster in which a unit of study is classified. Prior to 2005, Commonwealth funds for operating purposes were provided to universities as a single block operating grant for a specified number of student places on the basis of an educational profile that covered a higher education institution's teaching and research activities. As a result, a Commonwealth contribution per EFTSL cannot be calculated at the discipline level prior to 2005.

The Commonwealth and student contribution rates in the tables are for commencing students only, and do not include any grandfathering arrangements.