

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. SQ16-000522

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

HELP debt – increase in MYEFO on Budget figure

Question

MYEFO predicts that, on average, HELP debtors will take somewhat longer to repay – up from 8.5 years to 8.7. What factors or assumptions have driven this outcome? Has the Department undertaken or commissioned any analysis of trends in HELP repayment periods? If so, please provide a copy or a summary of results.

Answer

As at PAES 2015-16, the average number of years to repay HELP debt in 2014-15 was 8.7 years up from 8.5 years in 2013-14. These figures are based on actual repayment data provided by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on people paying off their debts as at 30 June in those financial years. Changes in graduate employment, wage outcomes and fees are factors in the gradual increase in time taken to fully repay debts. No further analysis has been commissioned.