

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0044_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Key aspects of HECS-HELP

During the Senate Estimates hearing, Mr Griew said, "There are certain key aspects of HECS that will be maintained." Does this mean that some key aspects of HECS-HELP have been discarded? Which ones have been discarded?

Answer

The Government is preserving the key features of the HELP scheme, namely, that no Australian student will have to pay a cent up front for their study and no one needs to start repaying their loans until they earn a reasonable income.

The Government's higher education reform package stops a number of aspects of the HELP scheme, including the:

- loan fee of 25 per cent for students in full fee-paying undergraduate places who defer payment of their fees through FEE-HELP
- loan fee of 20 per cent for full fee paying students receiving VET FEE-HELP
- FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP loan limits
- HECS-HELP benefit.