

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0417_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

HECS-HELP (relating to ED0036_15)

In reference to ED0036_15, when we leave the "budget deficit environment" will you still be borrowing to provide students with HECS-HELP? Or will it be provided out of general revenue?

Answer

The Department of the Treasury confirms that the Government will need to borrow to fund the shortfall between receipts and payments in each year of the forward estimates. The decision to borrow is a whole of Commonwealth issue and is not linked to a single Government initiative.