

**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. ED0666\_15**

**Senator Rhiannon asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 127**

**Question**

**Total spend on enabling courses**

Senator RHIANNON: Can you give us some federal funding per student? Do you have that? Mr Griew: There is federal funding for students for things designated as enabling courses, but the notion of an enabling course is defined in the negative, so it is quite a wide range of actual things. Senator RHIANNON: Can you provide information the figures for that, even if it is a range? Mr Warburton: The funding rates for an enabling course are the same as for any other course. You go to the discipline funding structure. Senator RHIANNON: To the discipline funding structure? Mr Warburton: Yes. We pay cluster funding rates. We pay different rates for maths and for law and so forth. Senator RHIANNON: How much does a student have to pay? It sounds like it varies. Mr Warburton: Nothing, Senator. Senator RHIANNON: They do not have to pay at all for any enabling course? Mr Warburton: No. Enabling courses do not have student contribution amounts. They are currently exempt from student contributions. Senator RHIANNON: If you cannot give us an average per place, can you give us a total federal spend on enabling courses? Mr Warburton: Yes. Senator RHIANNON: Will you be continuing to fund these in the future? Mr Warburton: Yes. Senator RHIANNON: It is ongoing. Okay. I total spend, please? Mr Warburton: Will take that on notice.

**Answer**

In 2013 the Australian Government allocated approximately 9590 enabling places to eligible higher education providers. The department estimates that providers received approximately \$111 million in funding for these places.

The *Higher Education Support Act (2003)* (HESA) precludes institutions from charging a student contribution amount for enabling courses. The Government provides Enabling Loading to higher education institutions to compensate them for not being able to charge student contributions for students in Commonwealth supported enabling courses. To receive enabling loading, a higher education provider must be in receipt of CGS funding and have a specified allocation of enabling places.