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## **2016 Higher Education Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) and Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) Funding Arrangements and 2015 student load estimates update**

### **2016 CGS Funding Arrangements**

As Minister Birmingham has indicated, the government wishes to consult and engage in further conversations on how best to ensure a sustainable funding basis for a world class higher education system with fair access for students.

Therefore, further to my letter of 7 July 2015, to provide certainty for institutions, and to assist in planning for the 2016 academic year, I would like to advise that 2016 CGS, HELP and RTS funding arrangements will be unchanged from those that applied in 2015.

Accordingly, for the purpose of 2016 CGS and HELP estimates, I can advise that cluster rates and structure will be as set out in the attached table. The 2016 rates are based on 2015 cluster rates, indexed by the Higher Education Grant Index (1.7 per cent) and including the continued impact of the Efficiency Dividend (ED).

The department will open the Program Funding System (PFS) for institutions' 2016 CGS and HELP estimates in the coming days. We will notify you when this occurs, and will endeavour to provide as much time as possible for institutions to prepare estimates. As you may be aware, this must be a minimum of 7 days from the opening of the PFS.

### **2015 Student load estimates update**

Once the PFS is opened, the department will be seeking your University's updated student load estimates for the CGS, HECS-HELP, FEE HELP, OS-HELP and SA-HELP schemes.

For the HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP, OS-HELP and SA-HELP schemes, the department is requesting updated estimates for 2015 and your initial estimates for 2016. For CGS, we are requesting updated estimates of your student load for both designated and non-designated courses of study for 2015 and updated estimates of your student load for non-designated courses of study for 2016-2019.

The CGS, HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP estimates are to be provided online through the estimates application of the Program Funding System within HEIMS.

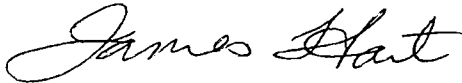
Unfortunately, the estimates process for SA-HELP has not been automated in HEIMS yet, so electronic Excel workbooks have been emailed to finance officers to complete and return by 1 October. Workbooks must be returned via email to [FEP@education.gov.au](mailto:FEP@education.gov.au) together with an indication that either you or your chief financial officer has approved them.

We will contact you in mid-November 2015 to advise you of any revision to your 2015 advance payments, and again in December 2015 to advise you of your initial advance payments for 2016.

If you or your program managers have any questions concerning the workbooks or the estimates process, please email your questions to [FEP@education.gov.au](mailto:FEP@education.gov.au).

In the meantime, do not hesitate to get in touch with me should you need further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Hart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

James Hart  
A/g Deputy Secretary

/ October 2015