

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000659

Senator Reynolds, Linda asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 65

HECS-HELP Benefit (STEM)

Question

Ms Borthwick: Just going on the history, there are no other changes in the policy environment that would suggest a different outcome.

Senator REYNOLDS: What was the cost of the implementation of that failed policy at the time?

Ms Borthwick: I do not have that.

Senator REYNOLDS: Can you take that on notice, because I would be interested to know. Obviously there must have been some significant cost to introduce this policy that failed. Please take on notice the associated cost.

Ms Paul: I am not sure we can deliver that; it was costed under a previous government. That is unless the cost was publicly announced, of course.

Senator REYNOLDS: Take it on notice. If there is something, that is great. If not, that is fine. Thank you very much.

Answer

In the 2008-09 Budget, the Labor Government announced that it would cost \$625.8 million over 2008-09 to 2011-12 to reduce the student contribution amounts for students enrolled in Maths and Science units of study and reduce compulsory HECS-HELP repayments for Maths and Science graduates.