

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000712**

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 80

***VET FEE-HELP (discrepancy on loan amounts)***

**Question**

Senator KIM CARR: In terms of full-fee-paying students in 2014, what is the average loan amount? Do you have that figure?

Ms Quagliata: Yes, we do. The average loan amount for 2013 was \$6,990. Senator KIM CARR: And in 2014?

Ms Quagliata: In 2014 it was \$8,666. Senator KIM CARR: I am getting different figures. I have a RIS here that says the average loan was \$14,500—how would you account for the difference in those statistics?

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Dr Banerjee: I have been trying to track down the discrepancy in the numbers that we were discussing before the break. I am particularly conscious of this, given some of the confusion around the use of loan versus tuition fee in some of the answers in the QONs. I want to take the opportunity to be very clear about that, which might assist the committee. The loans numbers Ms Quagliata read out, which were the average loan per student, are derived by dividing the total loan number—which is the number we gave you in 2014: \$1.76 billion—by the number of students that access VET FEE-HELP in that year, which is 202,776. It is an average loan per student: take all the students and total debt, and divide the two. The other basis on which these things are calculated is the tuition fee. The numbers that you were putting in the questions were about tuition fees. In the VET FEE-HELP more detailed tables, there is some information about average tuition fee. It is in table 2 of the tuition fees and expenditure. In that, as you put, the average annual tuition fee for full fee-paying students is \$14,144, which is the number that you put. The average annual tuition fee for publicly subsidised places is \$4,857. The weighted average of those two numbers is \$12,308. It does not explain the full difference; it explains a part of the difference.

Senator KIM CARR: I am sure you will take the rest on notice, and that will explain the difference.

**Answer**

The three tables below provide further clarification.

<b>Average Loan Amount per Student</b>	
Amounts deferred by all VFH assisted students in 2014	\$1,757,304,188
Number of VET FEE-HELP assisted students in 2014	202,776
Average Loan Amount per Student	<b>\$8,666</b>

<b>Average Loan Amount per EFTSL</b>	<b>Full Fee</b>	<b>Subsidised</b>	<b>All Students</b>
Amounts deferred by assisted students in 2014	\$1,649,217,187	\$108,087,001	\$1,757,304,188
EFTSL reported by VET providers in 2014	113,685	19,470	133,155
Average Loan Amount per EFTSL	<b>\$14,507</b>	<b>\$5,551</b>	<b>\$13,197</b>

<b>Average Tuition Fee</b>	<b>Full Fee</b>	<b>Subsidised</b>	<b>All Students</b>
Tuition Fees Charged to students in 2014	\$1,690,161,071	\$143,029,181	\$1,833,190,253
Enrolments (EFTSL) at VET providers in 2014	119,497	29,449	148,946
Average Tuition Fee	<b>\$14,144</b>	<b>\$4,857</b>	<b>\$12,308</b>

Notes : 'Student' means one eligible person assisted under VET FEE-HELP.

'EFTSL' (Equivalent Full Time Student Load) accounts for (a) the case of individual students enrolling in multiple courses within a year; and (b) variation in the duration of study between different courses individual students may enrol in.

Source : 2014 VET FEE-HELP Statistical Report  
Commonwealth Department of Education and Training