

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. SQ15-000898

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

Lowering of caps on student loans

Question

Has the department considered the impact of lowering the caps on student loan amounts? If so, what impact does the department consider that this would have on student access to training?

Answer

When considering options to strengthen the VET FEE-HELP loan scheme the department explored the option of introducing a capped average loan amount as an option to moderate the growth in VET FEE-HELP loans. This option is detailed in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) which accompanies the Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Reform) Bill 2015.

The RIS is available online at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_LEGislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r5535