

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0291\_14**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

1. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Student Support branch in the Department of Education? What programs is the Student Support branch in the Department of Education responsible for?
2. How many FTE positions are allocated to the Student Support branch in the Department of Education? Please break these down into actual headcounts, and provide the number of staff on non-ongoing employment arrangements.

**Answer**

1. The Student Support Branch in the Department of Education enables increased access to tertiary education for domestic students by administering the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) schemes, particularly FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. HELP promotes participation in vocational education and training (VET) and higher education by providing income contingent loans (ICLs) to students to assist with the cost of their up-front tuition fees. The Branch also manages the Higher Education Superannuation Program, the Student Services and Amenities Fee Program and associated Student Amenities-Higher Education Loan Program and assess financial viability for providers.
2. The Branch has 51.8 full time equivalent staff. The headcount is 53 staff. There are no non-ongoing staff.