

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. ED0472_14

Senator McKenzie asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 133

Question

Tax deductibility of self-education expenses

Senator McKENZIE: Okay, what consultation was had with the higher education sector or professional bodies prior to the decision to impose the cap on tax deductibility of self-education expenses? Mr Griew: It was a budget decision that was announced on budget night. Senator McKENZIE: Okay, is it the case that the vast majority that do claim the self-education expenses earn less than \$80,000 a year? Mr Griew: I do not know that we have that figure. I think I have been asked that before; do we know that figure? Mr Warburton: No, I do not think we do. We would need access to tax data and we do not have that. Mr Griew: I do not think we have that data. We could take that on notice

Answer

The Department of Education does not collect data on the proportion of people claiming self-education expenses who earn less than \$80,000 a year. However, the Department is aware of a discussion paper produced by the Treasury which notes that "around 87 per cent of individuals who lodged a return and claimed these expenses had a taxable income below \$80,000." The discussion paper 'Reform to deductions for education expenses' is available at www.treasury.gov.au.