

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E379_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- a) What is the estimate of doubtful HECS debt in dollar terms and as a proportion of total HECS debt for each financial year from 1988-89 to the most recently available data?
- b) When is it anticipated that more recent data will be available?

Answer:

Doubtful Debt – all available years

a)

Year	Doubtful debt (\$ million)	Total accumulated HECS debt (\$ million)	Proportion of total HECS debt
1992-93	386	2,321	16.6%
1993-94	438	2,932	14.9%
1994-95	541	3,354	16.1%
1995-96	687	3,958	17.4%
1996-97	607	4,504	13.5%
1997-98	700	4,922	14.2%
1998-99	953	5,526	17.2%
1999-00	1,124	6,229	18.0%
2000-01	1,397	7,162	19.5%
2001-02	1,723	8,104	21.3%
2002-03	2,018	9,164	22.2%
2003-04*	2,890	10,208	28.3%

* The doubtful debt estimate for 2003-04 is based on a preliminary actuarial estimate. The total accumulated HECS debt for 2003-04 includes an estimate of the amount of compulsory repayments for that year.

- b) The preliminary doubtful debt estimate for 2004-05 will be available in the 2004-05 DEST Annual Report.