

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.5 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E052_07

Senator Wong asked on 1 June 2006, EWRE Hansard pages 23 and 24.

Question:

I would like the information in the answer revised so that the information is currently correct. If you could give me an answer that revises the detail in 3402 and then perhaps explain the correlation or the relationship between the figures you just gave me and those figures.

Answer:

Updated figures (as at 2006-07 Budget) of response to Parliamentary Question No. 3402

Estimated FEE-HELP debt by financial year and calendar year

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Total FEE-HELP debt*	449.608	503.735	543.706	584.285

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Total FEE-HELP debt*	414.412	485.533	522.790	565.550	604.020

* - includes FEE-HELP loan fees.

The figures provided in response to Parliamentary Question No. 3402 have been updated to include estimated FEE-HELP debt due to the increase from 10% to 25% in the maximum number of fee-paying places which may be offered in a course of study in medicine, and the increase in the general FEE-HELP limit to \$80,000 and to \$100,000 for students in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses.

The figures quoted at the hearings were for FEE-HELP loans by calendar year. Total FEE-HELP debt consists of two components: FEE-HELP loans and FEE-HELP loan fees.

Debtors and debt levels by calendar year

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
EFTSL	33,592	37,242	39,137	41,205	43,205
Average loan*	\$11,714	\$12,259	\$12,552	\$12,880	\$13,121

* - does not include FEE-HELP loan fees.

The increase in estimated FEE-HELP loans from year to year reflects anticipated growth in student numbers and tuition fee levels, the increase in the FEE-HELP limit as announced in the 2006-07 Budget, and the increase from 10% to 25% in the maximum percentage of domestic undergraduate fee-paying places which may be offered in a course of study in medicine.

FEE-HELP debts are incurred by students in fee-paying places only. Fee-paying places are over and above Commonwealth supported places. Most undergraduate students at public universities study in Commonwealth supported places, to which the Australian Government contributes substantially to the cost.