

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome** 2 – HIGHER EDUCATION

**DEST Question No. E142\_08**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

**Question:**

What is the average level of HECS debt in Australia and how does this compare on a time series basis?

**Answer:**

*Average level of HECS Debt*

On 1 June 2006, HECS debts became HELP debts. A person's accumulated HELP debt includes any debts incurred under the former Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), the Postgraduate Education Loan Scheme (PELS), the Open Learning Deferred Payment Scheme (OLDPS) and the Bridging for Overseas Trained Professionals Loan Scheme (BOTPLS) along with any HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP debts.

**Average HELP debt in Australia from 1989 - 2007 as at 30 June of each year**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Average debt amount at 30 June</b>
1989	\$758.10
1990	\$1,635.23
1991	\$2,328.88
1992	\$2,957.30
1993	\$3,526.00
1994	\$3,969.59
1995	\$4,365.29
1996	\$4,775.87
1997	\$5,121.01
1998	\$5,449.68
1999	\$5,808.93
2000	\$6,347.20
2001	\$7,138.09
2002	\$7,784.28
2003	\$8,488.90
2004	\$9,154.85
2005	\$9,825.05
2006	\$10,474.84
2007	\$11,247.82

1. Data has been sourced from the Australian Taxation Office and is as at 30 June 2007
2. Amounts are in actual year prices.