

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0168_12

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Private Higher Education Providers and FEE-HELP

I refer to Table 2.3.2 relating to Program 3.2 on page 95 of the DEEWR Portfolio Budget Statements 2011-12 (Budget related paper No.16), and note that the data contained therein relating to the "program effectiveness indicators" only relates to undergraduate and postgraduate students attending Table A higher education providers.

1. Will the Minister provide the Committee with a further breakdown of the FEE-HELP deliverables in order to get an understanding of the capacity of Non-Table A higher education providers, and whether the actual cost of FEE-HELP provision differs for these non-university providers?
2. Specifically, will the Minister provide: (a) the breakdown (in terms of student numbers) between Table A and other higher education providers? (b) the breakdown between undergraduate and postgraduate students in total? (c) the breakdown between undergraduate and postgraduate in non-Table A providers? (d) the budget for the cost of FEE-HELP provisions to non-Table A providers, and how much of this is recovered by the 25% administration fee for undergraduate courses?

Answer

The latest final data on student FEE-HELP usage and the amount of FEE-HELP paid to Non-Table A providers is for the 2009 calendar year.

For 2009, a total of 17,846 Table A FEE-HELP undergraduate and postgraduate EFTSL (Equivalent Full Time Student Load) units accessed FEE-HELP. This figure consists of 4,987 undergraduate and 12,859 postgraduate EFTSL units respectively.

For 2009, a total of 18,506 Non-Table A FEE-HELP undergraduate and postgraduate EFTSL units accessed FEE-HELP. This figure consists of 15,891 undergraduate and 2,615 postgraduate EFTSL units respectively.

FEE-HELP loans to undergraduate and postgraduate students in 2009 for Non-Table A providers totalled approximately \$273 million. The cost to the Government of these FEE-HELP loans is not calculated separately from other HELP programs.

The cost to the Government of the FEE-HELP is calculated for all HELP programs combined. A breakdown is not available of how much of the cost of providing FEE-HELP to students is recovered by the 25 per cent administration fee for undergraduate courses of study.