

Our Ref: EC23-002268

Deputy Secretary Mr Ben Rimmer

Mr Jason Lange Executive Director Office of Impact Analysis Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Dear Mr Lange

## Certification of Department of Education's Review: Remaking the OS-HELP Guidelines 2013

I am writing to you about OS-HELP Guidelines 2013 (the Instrument) which, as per the *Legislation Act 2003*, had been scheduled to sunset on 1 October 2023. However, it will be recommended to the Minister for Education that the Instrument be remade without significant amendments.

The Instrument is made under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act) for the purpose of setting out principles and procedures that higher education providers must follow in deciding whether to select students for receipt of OS-HELP assistance, and any supplementary amounts for Asian language study.

The Department of Education certifies that the OS-HELP Guidelines 2013 is operating effectively and efficiently, and that therefore Impact Analysis is not required for this instrument to be remade.

The assessment that the Instrument is operating effectively and efficiently has been informed by a consultation process which involved:

- regular feedback on higher education issues through the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) Communications provider working group meetings that occur four times a year; and
- regular email and other communication between providers, other key stakeholders and the Department of Education dealing with higher education matters.

I also note that the regulatory burden to business, community organisations or individuals has been quantified using the Australian Government's *Regulatory Burden Measurement framework*. These are provided below. Average annual regulatory costs (from business as usual)

Change in costs (\$ million)	Business	Community organisations	People	Total change in costs
Total by sector	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The costs are estimated to be negligible as providers utilise data and systems that they ordinarily would require in the absence of the loan scheme.

I note the Australian Government has initiated a major review of the higher education system by an independent panel through the Australian Universities Accord process, with a final report due in December 2023.

I acknowledge that OIA will publish this letter for transparency purposes.

If you have any queries about this advice, please contact Ms Peta Brill on (02) 6240 9577, or Peta.Brill@education.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ben Rimmer Deputy Secretary Higher Education, Research and International Group Department of Education 28 August 2023