

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000400**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

*Also refer to previous Question No. SQ15-000158*

***How the governments of India, China, Malaysia and Singapore were funding expansion in higher education***

**Question**

Thank you for your informative response on the Bologna Process and on what Australia is doing to align our qualifications with those in the European Union. Our questions also asked how the governments of India, China, Malaysia and Singapore were funding expansion in higher education. The department has not answered this question. Instead, it has provided a little information on what the various plans for expansion actually are.

Are these countries using public funds to expand their higher education systems?

**Answer**

China

Funding for public higher education in China comes from the central government with contributions from local governments and relevant supervisory departments although there are an increasing number of privately-run second-tier colleges affiliated with public universities.

India, Malaysia and Singapore

The higher education systems of India, Singapore and Malaysia are primarily publicly funded, with contributions from the private sector.

In India, public expenditure on higher education was AUD \$5.5 billion (INR 269.7 billion) in 2015–16, and AUD \$4.9 billion (INR 240.3 billion) in 2014–15. The private sector is expected to play a significant role in the future expansion of higher education in India, through the establishment of additional private higher education institutions.

In Singapore, public expenditure on higher education was AUD \$2.82 billion in 2014 (SGD 2.93 billion), and AUD \$3.21 billion (SGD 3.34 billion) in 2013. The private sector is also playing a significant role in the expansion of Malaysia's higher education system by establishing additional private higher education institutions.

In Malaysia, public expenditure on higher education was AUD \$5.1 billion (RM 15.1 billion) in 2014, and AUD \$4.7 billion (RM 13.7 billion) in 2013. The private sector is also playing a significant role in the expansion of Singapore's higher education system by establishing additional private higher education institutions, as well as contributing co-funding to public institutions and funding student scholarships.