

**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. SQ15-000416**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***HELP loan expenses***

**Question**

In regards to HELP loan expenses:

- (a) In the PBS (p.49), you say that current (2014-15) expenditure on the HELP scheme is \$2.4 billion. But you see it rising to \$4.3 billion by 2028-19. Can you confirm that?
- (b) Can you explain why it does that?

**Answer**

- (a) The 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statement states that HELP expenses for 2014-15 are estimated to be \$2.4 billion and are estimated to rise to \$4.4 billion by 2018-19.
- (b) The estimated growth in HELP expenses across the forward estimates reflects continued growth in both student numbers and average loan values, across all HELP schemes.