

## 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. SQ15-000447

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

#### *Higher education expenditure*

#### Question

The PBO's document released on 28 May – charts comparing the 2015-16 Budget with the 2014-15 MYEFO – says that estimates of higher education expenditure will reduce by \$0.8 billion due to “parameter and other variations”. Can you detail what these variations comprise, and the forecasts and estimates involved? Can you provide a year-by-year commentary for the forward estimates?

#### Answer

The \$0.8 billion reduction in expenses affects programmes 2.1 (Commonwealth Grant Scheme), 2.2 (Superannuation Programme), 2.3 (Higher Education Support), 2.4 (HELP), 2.5 (Research Infrastructure) and 2.7 (International Education). Variations are due to a range of factors including economic parameters, student load estimates, technical programme changes, including movement of funds between years.

These changes include adjustments to estimates for the Higher Education University Superannuation Programme to reflect parameters agreed to with the NSW Government as part of a Memorandum of Understanding to support the 2014-15 Budget measure for the resumption of payments to universities in NSW to address unfunded superannuation entitlements.

Expenses (\$ billion)	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
2015-16 Budget parameter & other variations	-0.114	-0.181	-0.217	-0.246	-0.758

*Note: negative values in this table represent a reduction in expenses*