

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0040\_15**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

**HELP programme expenses**

What are the program expenses for the HELP scheme? Are they comprised as follows: • Debt not expected to be repaid (doubtful debt) • Deferral costs • Upfront and voluntary repayments? If not, what do they comprise?

**Answer**

The Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) expenses for 2014-15 are estimated to be \$1.381 billion.

These expenses include amounts for:

- the discount for upfront payment of HECS-HELP student contribution amounts;
- the bonus for voluntary repayment of HELP debt;
- the debt not expected to be repaid (DNER); and
- the concessional interest rate applied to HELP debts