

**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. ED0382\_15**

**Senator Rhiannon asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 95**

**Question**

**HELP loan system**

Senator RHIANNON: I want to stay with this international comparison. The minister has stated that the new HELP loan system is the most generous in the world. Is this based on advice from the department? Senator Ryan: I will take that on notice on behalf of the government. It is a question for the minister. I am representing him. I cannot answer on his behalf. Senator RHIANNON: Could you take it on notice where that advice comes from and what it is based on? Senator Ryan: I will ask the minister. I am here representing him. I will take it on notice on behalf of him. It is a question to the minister. Senator RHIANNON: Can it also be taken on notice whether the department gave that advice? Could you take that on notice, please? Mr Griew: I am not sure we have done a comparison— Senator RHIANNON: I am asking for it to be taken on notice. Senator Ryan: I will take it on notice on behalf of the government. I can do that, Senator Rhiannon. Senator RHIANNON: But I am asking the department to take it on notice as well.

**Answer**

The Department has advised the Minister that the HELP system is one of, if not, the strongest student loan systems in the world. As detailed in the answer to ED0044\_15 (Key aspects of HECS-HELP), the key elements of the HELP system will stay in place under the Government's higher education reforms. This is the basis of the Minister's statement.