

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E794_04

Senator Carr asked on 20 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 12.

Question:

Could we have a copy of that letter (from the Minister informing the sector of allocations of scholarships)?

Answer:

Letter re allocation of scholarships

Below is the text of the letter:

I am writing to you about the Government's scholarship programmes in 2004.

The *Higher Education Support Bill 2003* (HESA) and the *Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003* passed the Parliament on Friday 5 December 2003 and received Royal Assent on Friday 19 December 2003. The passage of the legislation means that all funding for Commonwealth Learning Scholarships (CLS), Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) will be provided through HESA for 2004 and subsequent years.

Commonwealth Learning Scholarships

The new Commonwealth Learning Scholarships will provide students from low-income and rural backgrounds with valuable financial support during their study. The number of accommodation scholarships available was increased in November 2003, providing assistance to even more students.

The HESA requires that the Government's scholarships programmes be managed in accordance with the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (the Guidelines). Initial consultations with the higher education sector on the CLS part of the Guidelines were undertaken through the Scholarships Reference Group during 2003. An early version of the relevant part of the Guidelines was made available during the Parliamentary debate on the new Bills.

Given the recency of the passage of the legislation, there has not been time to finalise these Guidelines. The Guidelines need to be tabled in the Parliament and may be disallowed by a vote of either House of the Parliament.

The Government is committed to Commonwealth Learning Scholarships being available in 2004 and I therefore propose to finalise the CLS part of the Guidelines

without delay for the purpose of allowing these scholarships to be available as soon as possible in 2004.

I intend to table the Guidelines in the parliament early in 2004 with the aim of making the first payments for scholarship grants towards the end of February 2004. Further consultation will then be conducted to inform the Guidelines to apply from 2005. I have asked my Department to seek feedback from interested stakeholders throughout 2004 so that the method of allocation of awards can be detailed in the Guidelines and used for future award allocations.

Enclosed are the award allocations for Commonwealth Learning Scholarships for institutions in 2004. These allocations have been determined taking into account factors such as an institutions' share of full-time HECS-liable students and the proportions of students from low-income, indigenous and rural backgrounds.

I recognise that it may take some time for institutions to be in a position to offer Commonwealth Learning Scholarships to students and that some institutions currently may not have in place the necessary administrative arrangements to offer scholarships at the beginning of 2004. I believe some flexibility is justified in this regard and propose that institutions be able to offer scholarships later in 2004, provided that initial offers are not made later than the start of semester 2.

Australian Postgraduate Awards and International Postgraduate Research Scholarships

The APA and IPRS guidelines for 2004 which have been sent to all higher education providers and are currently available on the DEST scholarships website were made under the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*. These guidelines cannot apply to the 2004 funding provided under HESA. However, the relevant sections of the Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines dealing with the APA and IPRS programmes will enable these programmes to continue without major change.

I am attempting to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to the new legal framework provided by HESA. I have therefore enclosed notice of the 2004 allocation of scholarship awards and proposed grant amounts for each provider under the CLS, APA and IPRS programmes. The grant amounts cannot be confirmed until the Guidelines have been finalised but the award allocations will be used to calculate the grant amounts and institutions can confidently proceed on the basis of this advice.

I look forward to working with you in 2004 as we implement the new arrangements.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN NELSON

Following are the details on the attachments:

**Commonwealth Learning Scholarship Programme
Scholarship Award Allocations and
Proposed Grants Amounts for 2004.**

INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF CECS AWARDS	NUMBER OF CAS AWARDS	TOTAL CLS FUNDING ALLOCATION
Avondale College	2	2	\$12,000
Charles Sturt University	52	65	\$364,000
Macquarie University	42	42	\$252,000
Southern Cross University	36	45	\$252,000
The University of New England	44	33	\$220,000
The University of New South Wales	71	87	\$490,000
The University of Newcastle	98	112	\$644,000
The University of Sydney	111	134	\$758,000
University of Technology, Sydney	72	71	\$428,000
University of Western Sydney	97	115	\$654,000
University of Wollongong	45	54	\$306,000
Deakin University	88	80	\$496,000
La Trobe University	80	143	\$732,000
Monash University	103	141	\$770,000
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	69	102	\$546,000
Swinburne University of Technology	26	38	\$204,000
The University of Melbourne	87	121	\$658,000
University of Ballarat	21	50	\$242,000
Victoria University of Technology	64	86	\$472,000
Central Queensland University	72	56	\$368,000
Griffith University	119	132	\$766,000
James Cook University	71	96	\$526,000
Queensland University of Technology	131	156	\$886,000
The University of Queensland	135	184	\$1,006,000
University of Southern Queensland	46	47	\$280,000
University of the Sunshine Coast	21	42	\$210,000
Curtin University of Technology	84	91	\$532,000
Edith Cowan University	84	78	\$480,000
Murdoch University	44	41	\$252,000
The University of Notre Dame	6	3	\$24,000
The University of Western Australia	53	66	\$370,000
The Flinders University of South Australia	47	58	\$326,000
The University of Adelaide	52	67	\$372,000
University of South Australia	95	99	\$586,000
Australian Maritime College	2	3	\$16,000
University of Tasmania	120	140	\$800,000
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	3	0	\$6,000
Northern Territory University	17	8	\$66,000
The Australian National University	27	38	\$206,000
University of Canberra	21	30	\$162,000
Australian Catholic University	42	44	\$ 260,000
TOTAL AUSTRALIA	2500	3000	\$17,000,000

**INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIPS (IPRS) SCHEME
FINAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR 2004**

INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF NEW SCHOLARSHIPS	TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION
Charles Sturt University	2	\$86,950
Southern Cross University	3	\$126,819
Macquarie University	6	\$333,378
The University of New England	4	\$308,354
The University of New South Wales	25	\$1,517,168
The University of Newcastle	7	\$393,607
The University of Sydney	31	\$1,592,666
University of Technology, Sydney	5	\$242,611
University of Western Sydney	5	\$277,815
University of Wollongong	6	\$427,963
Deakin University	6	\$247,277
La Trobe University	8	\$471,225
Monash University	24	\$1,163,855
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	9	\$535,271
Swinburne University of Technology	3	\$166,689
The University of Melbourne	37	\$1,740,693
University of Ballarat	1	\$55,563
Victoria University of Technology	3	\$153,541
Melbourne College of Divinity	1	\$44,535
Central Queensland University	1	\$66,591
Griffith University	8	\$356,282
James Cook University	5	\$348,223
Queensland University of Technology	7	\$364,765
The University of Queensland	30	\$1,666,891
University of Southern Queensland	1	\$55,563
Bond University	1	\$55,563
Curtin University of Technology	7	\$459,349
Edith Cowan University	3	\$166,689
Murdoch University	5	\$253,639
The University of Notre Dame Australia	1	\$55,563
The University of Western Australia	17	\$849,987
The Flinders University of South Australia	6	\$327,016
The University of Adelaide	16	\$789,759
University of South Australia	6	\$298,174
Australian Maritime College	1	\$55,563
The University of Tasmania	8	\$385,124
Charles Darwin University	1	\$55,563
The Australian National University	17	\$1,079,026
University of Canberra	2	\$111,126
Australian Catholic University	1	\$55,563
TOTAL AUSTRALIA	330	\$17,742,000

**AUSTRALIAN POSTGRADUATE AWARDS (APA) SCHEME
FINAL AWARD AND INITIAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR 2004**

INSTITUTION	NOTIONAL NUMBER OF NEW AWARDS	TOTAL INITIAL FUNDING ALLOCATION
Charles Sturt University	8	\$452,511
Southern Cross University	12	\$575,082
Macquarie University	26	\$1,735,644
The University of New England	21	\$1,248,469
The University of New South Wales	121	\$7,176,114
The University of Newcastle	33	\$2,092,174
The University of Sydney	148	\$8,526,391
University of Technology, Sydney	26	\$1,434,132
University of Western Sydney	22	\$1,314,335
University of Wollongong	30	\$1,764,456
Deakin University	27	\$1,455,891
La Trobe University	38	\$2,291,636
Monash University	115	\$6,345,749
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	41	\$2,428,427
Swinburne University of Technology	15	\$858,693
The University of Melbourne	174	\$9,650,949
University of Ballarat	4	\$230,446
Victoria University of Technology	14	\$753,947
Melbourne College of Divinity	4	\$153,069
Central Queensland University	7	\$381,164
Griffith University	36	\$2,035,138
James Cook University	23	\$1,363,947
Queensland University of Technology	33	\$1,931,554
The University of Queensland	142	\$8,192,067
University of Southern Queensland	6	\$345,670
The University of the Sunshine Coast	1	\$57,612
Bond University	1	\$57,612
Curtin University of Technology	33	\$1,937,291
Edith Cowan University	14	\$839,834
Murdoch University	26	\$1,403,761
The University of Notre Dame Australia	1	\$57,612
The University of Western Australia	79	\$4,645,331
The Flinders University of South Australia	30	\$1,819,589
The University of Adelaide	74	\$4,185,754
University of South Australia	26	\$1,520,147
Australian Maritime College	1	\$57,612
The University of Tasmania	37	\$2,117,767
Charles Darwin University	6	\$367,787
The Australian National University	80	\$4,642,328
University of Canberra	11	\$611,611
Australian Catholic University	4	\$238,700
TOTAL AUSTRALIA	1550	\$89,298,000