

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. E797_04

Senator Carr asked on 20 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 18.

Question:

CHESSN

Is it possible to cross-reference the CHESSN scheme with other departments' records?
And with which Departments?

Answer:

CHESSN

The CHESSN will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), along with student information that is currently provided, to assist the ATO administer student debts under the Higher Education Loans Programme (HELP).

There is no provision under the *Higher Education Support Act (HESA)* for DEST to provide CHESSN details to any other agency. CHESSN data cannot be provided to other departments under the *Data-matching program (Assistance and Tax) Act 1990*.

HESA requires compliance with the *Information Policy Principles* of the *Privacy Act 1988* by both higher education providers and Commonwealth officers in relation to protection of personal information and imposes heavy penalties on disclosure.