

## 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. E864\_04 – Amended answer**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing

#### **Question:**

- a) Please provide details of the issues discussed and any decisions reached from the HEIMSBAC meeting earlier this month.
- b) What is the estimated implementation cost of the HEIMS system nationally and the average cost per university?
- c) What are the estimated financial benefits (eg. Savings on perpetual students) that could flow from the use of this system?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Our Universities*

(a) Items that were discussed at the HEIMSBAC meeting on 5 February were:

- Request for Commonwealth Assistance
- Lifelong learning and SLE update
- Update on data and timing specifications for 2005
- Business requirements for the TAC/institutional CHESSN Allocation
- Updates on the students private and public portals
- HEIMSBAC/SAC Workshop (held on 10 and 11 March 2004)

The decisions reached were:

- DEST will ensure that all information made available to students will detail the pre-2005 eligibility requirements for all programmes and that all forms and information for students will consistently use the term “cancellation of enrolment” rather than “disenrolment”. DEST will include advice on the cessation of all grandfathering arrangements in 2008.
- DEST will review the current timetable for the circulation of information for students for 2005 with a view to making it available for those providers who enrol earlier than others.
- The lifelong Student Learning Entitlement (available to all eligible students after they consume their initial Student Learning Entitlement of seven years of equivalent full-time study) will be granted as follows:
  - if, on 1 January 2005 a person was aged 20 years or greater, the person will start accruing lifelong Student Learning Entitlement on 1 January 2015; or

- if, on 1 January 2005 a person was aged less than 20 years, the person will start accruing lifelong Student Learning Entitlement on 1 January of the year in which he or she turns 30.

- DEST will specify data requirements to higher education providers in March and data validations in April.

(b) The Government has allocated \$20.1 million to DEST over four years to develop and implement HEIMS:

- \$4.3 million in 2003-04,
- \$5.4 million in 2004-05,
- \$5.1 million in 2005-06,
- \$5.3 million in 2006-07;

There has been no analysis done of the specific cost to institutions. The Government will provide \$250,000 (2002 prices) per institution to assist with the implementation of HEIMS. In addition, \$90,000 will be provided to the five State Tertiary Admissions Centres in recognition of the significant contribution they are making on behalf of the institutions towards the implementation of the reforms.

(c) Students will be able to access their student learning entitlement, loan and scholarship information through the HEIMS private portal. They will also benefit from the general higher education information provided through the public portal. There has been no assessment of the financial benefits to students that could flow from the use of the system.