

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. E895_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

Dr Nelson has made the statement that 40 000 students studying with private higher education providers will have access assistance from FEE-HELP loans.

- a) Can you tell the Committee on what basis that estimate is made?
- b) Can you provide the Committee with details of the private providers that the Minister assumed would be recognised by the Commonwealth as HEPs, and able to offer places to 40 000 students?
- c) Do they currently have 40 000 students enrolled? Please provide a table showing these enrolments by institution and course.
- d) What would be their average loan?
- e) What will be the annual amount borrowed?
- f) What will be the notional cost to the Commonwealth?

Answer:

Students in private higher education

- a) In the Second Reading of the *Higher Education Support Bill* on 17 September 2003, Dr Nelson stated that there were some 30,000 to 40,000 students in recognised private higher education institutions who receive no form of Commonwealth assistance.

This statement is based on research undertaken in 2000. A *Survey of Private Providers in Australian Higher Education* (Watson 2000) indicated that in 1999 there were around 86 private higher education institutions operating in Australia. The number of students in these institutions was estimated at between 30,000 and 35,000 at this time. The survey by Watson indicated that expectations for continued growth in the private higher education sector are high.

- b) The Minister has not made any assumptions about which providers may or may not be recognised as Higher Education Providers under *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA). All private providers listed to deliver higher education awards on the AQF Register of Recognised Education Institutions and Authorised Accreditation Authorities are eligible to apply to be recognised as Higher Education Providers under HESA.
- c), d), e) f) Not applicable. The Minister has not made any assumptions about which providers may or may not be recognised as Higher Education Providers.