

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. E912_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

- a) What other measures are proposed to assist private providers to apply for approval?
- b) How many staff in the Higher Education Division will work in this area?
- c) What is the estimated cost?
- d) Will work in this area be centralised in Canberra, or located in DEST State Offices?

Answer:

Private providers: other measures

- a) There will be an information day in Canberra on 5 May 2004 for all higher education institutions interested in applying for approval as higher education providers (HEPs) under HESA, at which 'How to Apply' packs will be distributed. Officers from Higher Education Group will give presentations and will also be available to answer questions. The *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* website will also provide information about the application process.
- b) Staff from different (existing) Units will process different parts of the applications for approval as HEPs. The number of staff who will work in this area will depend on the number of applications.
- c) DEST has not yet estimated the cost of processing applications for approval as higher education providers, because the requirements for application have not yet been finalised and the number of applications is not yet known.
- d) The processing of applications for approval as HEPs will be undertaken by DEST in Canberra.