

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E921_04

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing

Question:

What is the estimated net cost of closing the Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS), in terms of increased expenditure on Youth Allowance, Austudy Payment, ABSTUDY and Pensioner Education Supplement and savings on doubtful debts?

Answer:

Estimated cost of closing the Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS)

The Department of Family and Community Services has provided the following response in respect of recipients of the Youth Allowance, Austudy Payment and the Pensioner Education Scheme under Social Security Law.

The cost of closing the scheme is \$204.4 million over 4 years and includes the DEST expense. This does not include possible payment of doubtful debts (DFaCS PBS page 210).