

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

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

#### **DEST Question No. E692\_05**

Senator Aden Ridgeway provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What are the mechanisms that hold to account those recipient entities?

#### **Answer:**

##### *ABSTUDY*

The accountability mechanisms for schools generally include:

- enrolment checks, conducted by Centrelink each school term to ensure that payments are only made on behalf of those students who are enrolled;
- ongoing registration as a school, as determined by State and Territory education authorities;
- a requirement that all non-government education authorities enter into an Agreement with the Australian Government and comply with the conditions contained therein in order to receive general recurrent funding. Briefly, these conditions refer to a commitment to the National Goals for Schooling; a commitment to achieve performance measures; the provision of financial accountability, including a financial questionnaire drawn from audited financial statements and educational accountability; and
- a requirement that eligible providers must also enter into agreements with the Commonwealth for the payment of funding under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* (the Act). The Act, the agreement and the guidelines set out the conditions of the funding. These conditions include a requirement for providers to submit appropriate performance and financial reports.