

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E740_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

It is reported in the AFR of 29/12/04 that the Minister, Dr Nelson, thinks that university entry score cut-offs are “often too high”.

- a) What measures have been proposed to inhibit this trend, or to require universities to take steps to reduce these entry scores?
- b) Is there an impediment to the Minister, through HESA, requiring universities to provide to him details of the numbers of school-leaver and other applicants accepted into each course?
- c) Is this under consideration?

Answer:

University entry score cut-offs

- a) The Government is placing downward pressure on University entry score cut-offs by providing more than 36,000 new Commonwealth-supported places and by relaxing the limit on the proportion of domestic students in a course of study that may be fee-paying. The new Commonwealth-supported places are being phased in from 2004 to 2008. The proportion of domestic students in a course of study that may be fee-paying increased from 25% to 35% in 2005 for all courses except for medicine. A limit of 10% is being phased in for medicine.
- b) No.
- c) Information about the number of school leavers, and other applicants accepted into each course, can be extracted from the Department’s *Higher Education student statistical collection*. This information will continue to be collected.