

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome 3
Output Group: 3.3 – Support for the Australian education and training export industry and international relationships.
2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E768_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Has the Government, directly or indirectly, offered any financial or other assistance to international students affected by the tsunami disaster?

If so, please provide details including expenditure and types and extent of assistance offered and provided.

If not, has the Government called on universities to offer this assistance? Will the Government subsidise universities in this? If so, what mechanisms have been set in place to put this into effect?

Answer:

Tsunami assistance: international students

The Government has not, either directly or indirectly, offered any financial assistance to students affected by the tsunami disaster. The Department has not been approached by any current students seeking financial assistance to continue their studies in Australia.

The Department has, however, received a number of enquiries from students in affected areas seeking scholarships to study in Australia. The Department has provided these prospective students with details of how they might apply for scholarships under the programmes administered by the Department, and has also provided details of how they might access information about Australian Development Scholarships administered by AusAID.

The Department recognises that education providers are in the best position to provide advice and support to students, including counselling and financial support. The Department has encouraged providers to assist those students who have been affected by the disaster and, from reports received from providers most have in place mechanisms through which assistance, financial or otherwise, can and will be made available to affected students. Early indications, however, are that a comparatively small number of international students studying in Australia have been directly affected by the disaster. Information is available on the AEI website at: <http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/Tsunami.htm> .

The Department has not been approached by universities or other education providers seeking financial assistance or subsidies for tsunami affected international students.