

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. E798_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- a) Does DEST audit or evaluate these estimates?
- b) What action does the Department take if, in your opinion, a university has significantly over-estimated its future income from international students?
- c) Does the Department revise the institution's projections?
- d) Does the Department discuss the matter with the institution?
- e) What happens if you can't agree?

Answer:

Universities' international student number projections: Evaluation and auditing

- a) The Department compares the actual student numbers against projections and where appropriate, would seek clarifications on the reasons for significant variances and the measures taken to enhance accuracy of future projections.
- b) If the Department considers that a university is relying on significantly over-estimated income, it will seek clarification of the basis for the underlying assumptions and the strategies for managing risks that may arise, especially with regard to the University's sustainability, from not achieving projected income levels.
- c) No.
- d) Yes. See (b) above.
- e) See (b) above. If the Department is not satisfied with the clarification and still has concerns, closer monitoring arrangements may be put in place.