

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 - Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E797_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

1. What happens if a university finds it has under-enrolments in a particular course?
2. What impact does this have on a university's funding?
3. Which universities had under-enrolments – most recent data available?

Answer:

Higher Education Support Act 2003 - university funding

1. A higher education provider's enrolment targets for Commonwealth supported places is set at the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding cluster level, not at the course of study level. Providers have some flexibility to move load between clusters to manage potential under enrolment in particular discipline areas or courses.
2. Under enrolments in a particular course do not necessarily affect a provider's funding. Adjustments under the CGS may be made on the basis of enrolments at the aggregate level. The arrangements for adjustments under the CGS are specified in subdivision 33-C of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and the CGS Guidelines (http://www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au/guidelines/cgs_guide.htm).
3. The most recent data available is for 2005 and this has been provided in response to DEST Question No. E080_07.