

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1, 2
Output Group: 1.2 Assistance for individuals including those with special needs
2.5 Assistance for post-school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E812_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Abstudy – Tertiary Level

1. E711_07 provides data about recipients of Abstudy – tertiary level for 2000-2005. Can you provide data for 2006?
2. You say in this answer that to provide data for years 1996-98 would require “significant re-direction of Departmental resources.”
3. Only three years’ data is requested. Numbers are small. Can you reconsider the answer you have given?

Answer:

Abstudy – Tertiary Level

1. Data on the number of ABSTUDY tertiary recipients by State and Territory for 2000 to 2005 was provided in the answer to E711_07. Data for 2006 are as follows:

State/Territory (a)	2006
New South Wales	6,029
Victoria	1,089
Queensland	4,300
South Australia	1,678
Western Australia	2,474
Tasmania	389
Northern Territory	1,554
Australian Capital Territory	158

(a) Home State/Territory of recipient

- 2-3. Prior to 1999, ABSTUDY data was managed under the Electronic Student Assistance System (ESAS) and since 2000 has been managed under the Centrelink Electronic Payments System (CEPS). The method for counting ABSTUDY-Tertiary from the CEPS database cannot be applied to the pre-1999 data that was collected under the ESAS system without significant redirection of Departmental resources.