

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. E832_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

1. Have you worked out the details of the process to be used in allocating the additional Engineering places funded under Skills of the Future?
2. Have you held discussions with universities about this?
3. What will be the impact on supply of places versus demand? Isn't it the case that demand for Engineering places varies a lot between universities?
4. Will you stipulate that universities are not to drop their entry requirements – cut-offs or prerequisites – beyond some insignificant amount? If not, what will be the cost implications for universities which find themselves taking in students who are not appropriately prepared for Engineering?

Answer:

Additional Engineering Places

1. The Minister has decided the following approach for the allocation of the 500 new engineering places:
 - Consultation on priorities with State and Territory governments and other key stakeholders, including engineering peak bodies. The Minister wrote to stakeholders in February.
 - Providers applying for the places in around April/May.
 - Consultation with States/Territories on providers' applications around June/July.
 - Decision on the allocation around July.
2. No. It is broadly the same approach that was used for the last allocation of new places.
3. The Minister has indicated that she will give priority to those applications that provide evidence of student demand.
4. No, as autonomous institutions, it is up to individual providers to determine their own entry requirements for their courses.