

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E079_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

“The package proposes limitations on the number of years a student would be eligible for a Commonwealth-subsidised place and access to HECS – a limit of five years.

- a) Is it correct to say that these could be waived in certain circumstances?
- b) What circumstances?
- c) Can the Department provide a list of exemptions to the five year rule?”

Answer:

Learning entitlement

- a)b) The Learning Entitlement provides students with a Commonwealth supported place with the equivalent of five years of full time study and may be extended beyond five years to support students who are undertaking an initial undergraduate course or pathway in which the normal enrolment period is longer than five years (for example medicine at undergraduate or graduate degree levels or double degree with honours).
- c) No. The circumstances in which the 5 year Learning Entitlement may be extended are yet to be settled in detail.