

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1 and 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. E128_04

Senator Crossin asked on 3 June 2003. EWRE Hansard page 263

Question:

In relation to this privacy issue, I was saying before that page 13 of the notes for Abstudy claim that information may be given to FaCS or DEST, and that this is a loop out of the Privacy Act. There has been a suggestion that perhaps it should also include something along the lines 'and school principals or school registrars, where necessary' to make it a bit easier.

Answer:

Privacy Declaration on the ABSTUDY form

On page 7 of the claim for ABSTUDY Schooling Form A, (page 17 of ABSTUDY Form B, and page 9 of Form C) customers are advised that personal information is protected by law and can only be given to someone else where Commonwealth legislation requires it or the customer gives permission. It also states that information may be checked with the education institution in which the student is enrolled. Customers are also directed to the pamphlet "Your Right to Privacy" that can be obtained from Centrelink.

The Department will investigate the ramifications of the suggestion that information be made available to school principals or school registrars and what information, if any, could be provided.