

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E094_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Please provide the Committee with details of actions taken to date to meet HESA requirements relating to disallowable instruments:

- Approval of providers
- Revocations of approvals
- Determinations relating to courses of study and Commonwealth-supported students
- Lists of grants made under s.41-10
- Determination of courses under which FEE-HELP is unavailable
- Guidelines required by the Act
- Funding agreements (to be tabled only – not disallowable)

Answer:

Actions taken to meet HESA requirements

- **Approval of providers and revocation of approvals**
 - The Department is currently preparing disallowable instruments for use in this area. The Minister has not yet approved any bodies corporate as Higher Education Providers (HEPs), and so no revocations of approvals have been considered.
- **Determinations relating to courses of study and Commonwealth-supported students**
 - These are described in subsection 36-15(2) of HESA and, should any such determination be required, they would be prepared after the funding agreements with each university have been finalised.
- **Lists of grants made under s.41-10**
 - In accordance with Section 41-50 of HESA, a list setting out all grants which may be paid in 2005 for each purpose of grant specified in the table of Section 41-10, will be tabled before the end of this year. This list is currently being prepared.

Determination of courses under which FEE-HELP is unavailable

- There is currently no intention to make FEE-HELP unavailable for any higher education course of study.

• Guidelines required by the Act

- A range of Guidelines are being prepared by the Department and are listed at Attachment A (current as at 16 July 2004).

• Funding agreements (to be tabled only – not disallowable)

- Funding agreement meetings have now been held with each university. On 2 July 2004, the Minister announced the new places for universities. The Department is currently discussing load profile issues with universities. Draft Funding Agreements will be sent to each university shortly. The Agreements will be tabled after they have been signed by both the Commonwealth and the University.

ATTACHMENT A**HESA Guidelines**

Guidelines	Stage of Development	Date
Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines	Gazetted and Tabled	26 February and 3 March 2004
Higher Education Provider Guidelines	Gazetted and Tabled	23 and 25 March 2004
Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines	Gazetted	7 and 21 June 2004
Administration Guidelines	Gazetted	30 June 2004
Student Learning Entitlement Guidelines	Draft Guidelines Sent to sector	7 April 2004
FEE-HELP Guidelines	Draft Guidelines Sent to sector	10 May 2004
OS-HELP Guidelines	Draft Guidelines Sent to sector	10 May 2004
Tax File Number Guidelines	In progress (will be gazetted only)	N/A
Other Grants Guidelines	In progress Superannuation Programme and Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund Components sent to sector	20 February 2004 and 8 June 2004, respectively.

Consequential and Transitional Guidelines

Guidelines	Stage of Development	Date
HECS Transitional Guidelines	Draft Guidelines Sent to sector	10 May 2004
PELS Transitional Guidelines	Draft Guidelines Sent to sector	10 May 2004