

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. E106_05

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

Please provide details of the “request for Commonwealth assistance” discussed at the HEIMSBAC meeting on 5 February

Answer:

HEIMSBAC Meeting

Under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA), students are required to complete a request for Commonwealth assistance if they:

- enrol in units of study that are Commonwealth supported;
- wish to obtain HECS-HELP assistance for Commonwealth supported units of study;
- wish to obtain FEE-HELP assistance for units of study for which they are paying full tuition fees; or
- wish to obtain OS-HELP assistance.

Five Request for Commonwealth assistance forms have been developed for students to complete, depending on the type of Commonwealth assistance they are seeking. These are:

- Request for Commonwealth support and HECS-HELP;
- Request for Commonwealth support and HECS-HELP - pre-2005 HECS;
- Request for FEE-HELP assistance;
- Request for FEE-HELP assistance – Open Learning Australia (OLA); and
- OS-HELP debt confirmation.

At the HEIMSBAC meeting of 5 February 2004, drafts of these forms were presented to the sector for comment. Final versions of the forms will be sent to higher education providers in September for distribution to students.