

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

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

DEST Question No. E115_05

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Refers to E672_04

Question:

Please update the answer to question E672_04 with 2003 figures.

(On 2003 enrolment figures, what percentage of commencing Indigenous students and commencing students from low-income families would have received a Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship).

Answer:

Indigenous students receiving CECS

Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS) will provide full-time undergraduate students from low socio-economic backgrounds with \$2,000 per year for up to four years to assist them with their higher education expenses.

In 2004, 2,500 new CECS will be provided. By 2008, 5,105 new scholarships will be awarded each year and 22,740 students will have received a CECS. The Government will provide \$127.59 million over five years for CECS.

Data on 2004 commencing students are not yet available. Using 2003 data, approximately 11% of eligible commencing students from a low SES background would have access to one of the 2,500 CECS on offer in 2004. In 2005, the number of new CECS will increase to 5,020. Based again on 2003 student data, approximately 22% of eligible commencing students from a low SES background would have access to a CECS in 2005.

The percentage of Indigenous students who receive a CECS is dependent on scholarship awards made by higher education providers (HEPs). Programme Guidelines stipulate that Indigenous students are to receive special consideration in scholarship application and award processes to ensure they receive a fair proportion of a HEP's scholarship allocation.