

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

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

#### **DEST Question No. E055\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

This program is indexed by the CPI, isn't it? Are the figures in the Paper appropriately indexed or deflated? What constant dollars do we have?

#### **Answer:**

##### *ABSTUDY*

Some ABSTUDY payments are indexed and others are not, depending on the type of payment. For tertiary students Living Allowance, Incidentals and Rent Assistance are indexed by the CPI. Allowances such as Fares Allowance, Additional Assistance, Away-from-base, Lawful Custody Allowance are not indexed as they are paid on actual costs. All the other allowances for tertiary students remain at a set rate and are not indexed. Total expenditure figures presented in the Discussion Paper are nominal figures, and have not been deflated by the CPI.

Constant dollar figures for total expenditure would require disaggregated payment data to allow the CPI deflator to be applied only to those payments which attract CPI indexation. Such disaggregated data is not available.