

## 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. E291\_06

Senator Crossin asked on asked on Wednesday 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 38.

#### Question:

I will get you to take that on notice:

- (a) The actual expenditure for Abstudy for 2003-04 and 2004-05.
- (b) Are the figures you have given me today based on the number of students you are expecting will access Abstudy?
- (c) What is the other element of how the numbers are forecast? Do you pay Centrelink an administration fee?

#### Answer:

##### *ABSTUDY Expenditure*

- (a) The actual expenditure for ABSTUDY for 2003-04 was \$184.231 million. This figure does not include expenditure relating to ABSTUDY for the Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) that has been provided in response to Question on Notice E039\_06. Data is not yet available for 2004-05.
- (b) The figures you were given on 1 June 2005 are the budget estimates [\$198.4 million for 2005-06]. One factor in determining the budget estimates is the number of students that are expected to access ABSTUDY in the period concerned.
- (c) Other elements considered in forecasting budget estimates are the increase to the base amount paid due to the indexation factor that is applied to the ABSTUDY Living Allowance and some supplementary benefits and the funding for the administration of the Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS). Funding for Centrelink for the administration of ABSTUDY is not paid out of this appropriation but rather from departmental appropriations. DEST paid Centrelink \$13.4 million in 2003-04 for the delivery of all services provided, including delivery of ABSTUDY.