

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E398_06

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

Question:

How does DEST plan to ensure that private institutions do not use the enrolling of FEE-HELP students as an income generating exercise? (FYI this problem is outlined in Maralyn Parker's article in the Daily Telegraph 27/4/2005).

Answer:

Generating income from advance FEE-HELP payments.

FEE-HELP enables eligible students to access a Commonwealth loan to pay their tuition fees. FEE-HELP is available for, and a FEE-HELP debt is incurred in respect of, units in which a student is enrolled at the census date. Students do not incur FEE-HELP debts and providers are not paid by the Commonwealth, in advance for future units which they may not actually undertake if they withdraw from their degrees.