

## 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. E410\_06

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

#### Question:

- a) What modelling has DEST done about the number of private university places they imagine will exist at the end of the forward estimates?
- b) Does DEST have a target for the number of private HEP places available at that time?
- c) How much money does DEST imagine will be spent on private FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP HEP places by the end of the forward estimates?
- d) And what modelling has DEST done about the impact of an increasing number of private HEP places on the viability of public universities?

#### Answer:

*The impact of FEE-HELP at private providers on enrolments at public universities.*

- a) The Department has not estimated the number of students who will attend private higher education providers at the end of the forward estimates period. DEST estimates only the number of students who may access a FEE-HELP loan.
- b) No.
- c) The Department estimates for Commonwealth supported places and HECS-HELP are only available at the aggregate level for the sector. The total estimated amount of FEE-HELP loans to students at private higher education providers is set out in the following table:

Private providers	2005 \$m	2006 \$m	2007 \$m	2008 \$m	2009 \$m
Undergraduate	48	59	64	65	67
Other <sup>1</sup>	12	15	16	16	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>

1. *Other* includes loans to students undertaking postgraduate study (coursework and research), as well as students undertaking bridging study for overseas-trained professionals and enabling courses.

2. Amounts may not sum to totals due to rounding.

- d) None. The number of student places at private higher education providers is unlikely to substantially effect the viability of public universities.