

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. E412_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

a) How many universities potentially affected by the Government's VSU legislation currently fund each of the following services and amenities through student service fees:

- Student accommodation
- Binding services
- Catering and food service
- Student theatre
- Sporting facilities
- Student lounges
- Shower, change and locker facilities
- Leisure activities
- Student development courses
- Concerts
- International student services and advice
- Student employment service
- International clubs
- Campus radio and television
- Child care
- Travel service
- Trips and tours
- Discount ticketing
- Function spaces
- Dental services
- Welfare services
- Representation on university bodies
- On-campus shops, social activities
- Photocopy service
- Campus sports
- Gymnasiums
- Cinemas and theatres
- Facility upkeep and maintenance
- Recreational libraries
- Computer facilities interest clubs and societies
- Art galleries
- Information and enquiry service
- Bookshop and other retail outlets
- University diary
- Campus media and/or other student newspapers
- Legal services
- Conference and meeting rooms
- Academic dress
- University games
- Academic advice and advocacy

- b) What discussions has DEST held with the AVCC about universities plans and capacities to fund these facilities and services if the VSU legislation is passed?
- c) What has the AVCC indicated would be the cost faced by universities in funding these services and amenities?
- d) Has it been put to the Department that many, if not most of these services are essential?
- e) Does DEST have a list of ancillary services and amenities it regards as essential or very important to students welfare, wellbeing and academic success? Can you provide the list to the Committee?

Answer:

Non-academic amenities and services

- a) The Department has not undertaken research on which student services are funded by individual universities.
- b) The Department has not held discussions with the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee about universities' plans to fund these services and amenities.
- c) The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has published the results of a survey on the expenditure on services and amenities by universities. The results did not include all universities.
- d) There have been claims in correspondence about services being essential. However, many of the services, if not all, would be provided by alternative providers.
- e) The Department has not compiled such a list.