

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance for Individuals including those with special needs.

DEST Question No. E324_07

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Why is the ABSTUDY School Term Allowance paid in arrears and not up front?

Answer:

ABSTUDY School Term Allowance

The ABSTUDY School Term Allowance is paid up front. However, new arrangements for payment of ABSTUDY School Term Allowance will come into effect from 2007.

From 2007, payment of this Allowance for Term 1 will be up front at the start of Term 1. Payment for Terms 2, 3 and 4 will be made up front on the provision by parents of evidence in writing from the school of the student's attendance of at least 85 per cent of the previous term.

The changed payment arrangements are intended to encourage improved school attendance.