

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome** 2 - HIGHER EDUCATION

**DEST Question No. E132\_08**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

**Question:**

1. What requirements will universities need to meet in order to receive a three year CGS agreement, with regard to:
  - a. Governance;
  - b. Quality;
  - c. Financial reporting; and
  - d. Data reporting?

**Answer:**

*Commonwealth Grant Scheme*

To receive funding under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS), higher education providers are required to enter into a funding agreement with the Commonwealth. From 2008, funding agreements will refer providers to the need to comply with specific requirements in relation to governance, quality and data reporting, as outlined below:

- In relation to governance, a provider will be required to acknowledge that its basic grant amount for a year will be reduced under section 33-17 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) if it does not comply with the National Governance Protocols (and the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements) specified in the *Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines* at any time.
- In relation to quality, a provider will be required to comply with the requirements specified in division 19-C of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA).
- In relation to data reporting, a provider will be required to provide such statistical and other information that the Minister for Education, Science and Training requires by notice under section 19-70 of HESA.

Providers are also required to comply with the requirements specified in section 19-10 of HESA in relation to financial information.

The Department will be consulting with the sector in relation to possible changes in financial reporting arrangements that may flow from the Australian Government's proposal to seek referral of State/Territory powers in relation to financial reporting and auditing and on the operationalisation of the HESA requirements on quality.