

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.4 – Funding for higher education

#### DEST Question No. E433\_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

#### Question:

- 1 The Government's higher education package does not include any earmarked places in the national priority area of teacher education, at least in public universities.
  - a) Does this mean that any new places in teacher education will have to be found from among the 25,000 places that are currently marginally funded?
  - b) If so, how many such places will be needed over 2004-07?
- 2 But the package does earmark 1,400 Commonwealth supported places in 'national priority' areas in private higher education institutions.
  - a) Can the Department identify which of these places will be earmarked for teacher education? And in what institutions?
  - b) Please explain why the additional places are for private institutions only?
  - c) Does this mean that the Commonwealth is expecting growth only in private schools?

#### Answer:

##### *Teacher education places*

- 1(a) Any new places in teacher education for public universities will be from the 25,000 new Commonwealth supported places.
- 1(b) The Department will be consulting with the States and Territories and institutions on priorities for the discipline mix for the new places. The appropriate number of teacher education places will be determined as a result of these consultations.
- 2(a) No, not yet.
- 2(b) The package provides 574 nursing places to public institutions in addition to any places allocated to teaching or nursing from the 25,000 new fully funded places. The package also increases the Commonwealth contribution to places in these disciplines, new and old.

The package of up to 1400 places allocated to private institutions, including the 655 already provided by Avondale College and the University of Notre Dame in areas of national priority, recognises both the work currently being undertaken by these institutions in some regional locations and with students in courses which have been

identified as national priorities, and the potential of the private sector to provide quality higher education.

2(c) No. See 1(a), 1(b) and 2(b) above. Employment as a teacher in any State or Territory does not normally depend on where a person's teaching qualification was gained.