

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

#### DEST Question No. E468\_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

#### Question:

*Refers to DEST Question E419\_03*

- (a) Please update the data provided in answer to part 1) E419\_03.
- (b) Please update and provide a state by state breakdown to the data provided in answer to part 1) E419\_03?

#### Answer:

##### *HECS Doubtful debt estimate*

- (a) The following table provides an annual breakdown of the HECS doubtful debt estimate as determined by the Australian Government Actuary (AGA) from 1992-93 to 2002-03.

Year	Doubtful debt estimate (\$m)	Total Outstanding Debt (\$m)	Doubtful debt as a proportion of outstanding debt
1992-93	386	2,321	16.6%
1993-94	438	2,932	14.9%
1994-95	541	3,354	16.1%
1995-96	687	3,958	17.4%
1996-97	607	4,504	13.5%
1997-98	700	4,922	14.2%
1998-99	953	5,526	17.2%
1999-2000	1,124	6,229	18.0%
2000-01	1,397	7,162	19.5%
2001-02	1,723	8,104	21.3%
2002-03	2,019	9,094	22.2%

Note: The 2001-02 provision for HECS doubtful debt was determined by actuarial assessment and was updated by AGA in March 2003. The corresponding provision for 2002-03 is a preliminary estimate.

- b) AGA estimates the amount of HECS debt unlikely to be recovered on a national aggregate basis only. Therefore, a state by state breakdown is not available.