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. E483_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

a) How much money is being paid for each of the institutions on workplace relations and governance matters?

b) What is the relative funding position by EFTSU?

c) What is the weighted EFTSU for each institution under HEFA in 2003?; and,

d) What was it, for instance, back in 1993?

Answer:

Workplace Relations and governance matters

a) The Commonwealth will provide $404m over four years to universities where they meet the governance protocols and workplace relations requirements. Under the new Commonwealth Grants Scheme each institution will be paid 2.5 per cent of their cluster amount for 2005, rising by a further 2.5 per cent in each of 2006 and 2007. Actual dollar amounts for each institution will not be available until the number of places against cluster mix is determined as part of the Funding Agreements.

b) Relative funding per EFTSU under the new Commonwealth Grants Scheme has not been determined for individual institutions. Commonwealth Grants under the new scheme will be paid on actual enrolments in each cluster. For this reason it is unlikely that a notional figure of funding per EFTSU will be calculated for institutions.

c) The Weighted EFTSU (WEFTSU) for 2003 has not been calculated as yet. WEFTSU is not a particularly good indicator of an individual institution's cluster profile over time as it is subject to both internal and external influences which can cause significant fluctuations. In particular, Government decisions on new places and the vagaries of marginally funded places can result in significant year-on-year fluctuations in WEFTSU. Under the new arrangements, cluster values for each discipline are to be specified in legislation.

d) Clusters only became important under HEFA from 1995. Prior to this WEFTSU was not calculated.