

## 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. E486\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003, EWRE Hansard page 92.

#### **Question:**

If a HECS-HELP charge could be set, say in December, under clause 19-90, they could not set another fee until December the following year? That is what that means?

#### **Answer:**

##### *HECS- HELP charge*

The Higher Education Support Bill 2003, as introduced into the Parliament, would have allowed a higher education provider to determine the student contribution amounts and tuition fees for a particular year at any time and would not have prevented a provider from changing that determination.

Government amendments to Section 19-95 of the Bill moved in the Senate require providers to determine the student contribution amounts and tuition fees for a particular year and publish those rates by a specified time so that students and potential students will have adequate time to make informed decisions about their higher education choices.

In addition, amendments were also made to change Section 93-10 so that the maximum student contribution amounts can only be changed through amendments to the legislation.