

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1 and 2  
**Output Group:** 1.2 Assistance for individuals including those with special needs and  
2.5 Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

#### DEST Question No. E497\_04 – Amended Interim

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

#### Question:

*Abstudy recipient: numbers*

In the Annual Report on p.49, you provide the numbers of tertiary students in receipt of Abstudy for 2001 and 2002. Can you provide this information by sector (VET and higher education)?

Can you also provide this information for the schools sector for those years?

When will 2003 data become available? Can this also be provided?

#### Answer:

Please note that the figures have been amended from our answer provided to you on 15 December 2003. The ABSTUDY Beneficiary figures did not include the category of 'Other', students not attributed by Centrelink to a category.

*ABSTUDY recipients*

The 2001 Actual figures reported in the 2002-03 DEST Annual Report are understated.

The breakdown between the sectors is as follows:

#### **ABSTUDY Beneficiaries by School, Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education Sectors for 2001 and 2002**

| <b>Sector</b>    | <b>2001</b>   | <b>2002</b>   |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Schools          | 27,200        | 28,414        |
| VET              | 17,341        | 17,429        |
| Higher Education | 5,845         | 5,688         |
| Other(1)         | 65            | 31            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>50,451</b> | <b>51,562</b> |

Source: Centrelink

(1) Students not attributed by Centrelink to a category.

The 2003 beneficiaries' data will be finalised in March 2004. This can be provided when it becomes available from Centrelink.