

## 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  
2.5 Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

#### **DEST Question No. E503\_04**

Senator Crossin asked on 6 November 2003

#### **Question:**

Refers to DEST Question No E128\_04.

In answer to question E128\_04 of June, regarding provision of certain information from Abstudy forms to third parties such as school principals or registrars – it was said the Department would investigate this question further. Has this in fact happened?

#### **Answer:**

*Privacy Declaration on the ABSTUDY form*

Yes. The Department has investigated the ramifications of the suggestion that information be made available to school principals or school registrars and what information, if any, could be provided.

Based on advice to the Department, if changes were made to ABSTUDY forms enabling school principals or registrars to access information provided on the forms, the applicant's consent would need to be obtained each time any information was given to this third party. Additionally, Centrelink would need to be satisfied that the information given to a third party was sufficiently protected and that school principals and registrars would only use the information to assist with the completion of ABSTUDY application forms. For these reasons, the Department does not intend to further pursue this matter.