

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.3 AEI Group

DEST Question No. E511_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

(Refers to Question E448_03)

Could you indicate what the increase in costs to an average international student studying in Australia would be for every 1 cent rise in the value of the Australian dollar relative to the US dollar?

Answer:

Costs to international students

Analysis of the *Comparative Costs of Higher Education Courses for International Students in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States* (published jointly by IDP Education Australia and DEST in March, 2002) found that the median cost to an international student of a year of undergraduate study in Australia was \$23,252.

Converting this figure at an exchange rate of US\$0.70 gives a figure of US\$16,276.

Assuming that the market conditions at the time of the comparative costs analysis continued to hold, a 1 cent increase in the value of the Australian dollar from US\$0.70 to US\$0.71 (a rise of 1.4%) would increase the median cost in US dollars of a year of undergraduate study in Australia from US\$16,276 to US\$16,509.

There is, however, no fixed relationship between change in the value of the Australian dollar relative to the US dollar and the cost to international students of studying in Australia.