

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. E650_04

Senator Stott Despoja asked on 17 November 2003

Question:

The following table is drawn from DEST 2001-02 and 2002-03 Annual Reports.

ABSTUDY Recipients	2001 Actual (2001-02 Annual Report)	2001 Actual (2002-03 Annual Report)	2002 Actual (2002-03 Annual Report)
School students	27 200	26 946	28 414
Tertiary students	23 186	20 722	23 117

I note that Actual ABSTUDY recipient figures for 2001 and 2002 are reported in DEST's 2002-03 Annual Report. Can you explain why the 2001 figures do not reconcile with those reported in DEST's 2001-02 Annual Report, particularly in relation to tertiary students?

Answer

ABSTUDY

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

Abstudy recipients in 2001 and 2002 are as follows:

ABSTUDY Recipients	2001 Actual		2002 Actual	
School Students		27,200		28,414
Tertiary Students				
• Higher Education	5,845		5,688	
• VET	<u>17,341</u>	23,186	<u>17,429</u>	23,117
		<u>50,386</u>		<u>51,531</u>
Other ¹		65		31
Total Abstudy recipients		50,451		51,562

Source: Centrelink

¹ Students not attributed by Centrelink to a category