

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E672_04

Senator Stott Despoja asked on 17 November 2003

Question:

On 2003 enrolment figures, what percentage of commencing Indigenous students and commencing students from low-income families would have received a Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship?

Answer:

Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships

Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships are awarded to full-time undergraduate students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

In 2004, 2,500 new CEC Scholarships will be provided. By 2007, 5,075 new scholarships will be awarded each year and 17,635 students will be in receipt of a CEC scholarship. The CECS will be funded at a cost of \$84.4 million over four years.

Data on 2003 commencing students are not yet available. Using 2002 data, approximately 12% of commencing students from a low SES background would receive a CECS. The percentage of Indigenous students who receive a CECS is dependent on scholarship awards made by institutions. Draft Programme Guidelines currently stipulate that Indigenous students are to receive special consideration in scholarship application and award processes to ensure they receive a fair proportion of an institution's scholarship allocation. Current data indicates that Indigenous students are highly represented in the low SES cohort. It is therefore likely that a significant percentage of commencing Indigenous students will receive a CECS.