

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. E673_04

Senator Stott Despoja asked on 17 November 2003

Question:

On 2003 enrolment figures, what percentage of commencing rural students would have received a Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship?

Answer:

Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship

The Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships will provide low socio-economic status full-time undergraduate students from rural and regional areas with \$4,000 per year for up to four years to assist them with the accommodation expenses where they have to move to undertake higher education.

In 2004, 3,000 scholarships will be offered, allocated on the basis of academic merit. By 2007, 4,060 new scholarships will be awarded each year and approximately 15,100 students will be in receipt of a CAS. The Government will provide \$144.7 million over 4 years to the CAS programme.

The figures for 2003 enrolments are not yet available. Research has shown that around 10,000 low SES students from rural and isolated areas move away from home each year to commence higher education. Using these figures, approximately 30% of commencing low SES rural students will receive a Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship in 2004.