

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4

DEST Question No. E677_04

Senator Stott Despoja asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

- (a) Can you provide the modelling that was used in the development of the CGS?
- (b) Which component of this data suggested that an increase in HECS would benefit students?

Answer:

CGS Modelling

- (a) The modelling which took place in the development of the Commonwealth Grants Scheme is not available as it is Cabinet-in-Confidence.
- (b) There is no relationship between the modelling developed for the Commonwealth Grants Scheme (CGS) and the proposed introduction of variable student contribution rates from 2005. Under the reform package the Australian Government will no longer determine what universities should charge for their courses and institutions may set student contributions for Commonwealth-supported places within a range from \$0 up to 25 per cent higher than current HECS contribution rates. This will introduce some fee flexibility into the higher education sector and promote a more diverse higher education system.