

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E680_04

Senator Stott Despoja asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

Has DEST modelled the impact of a 30% increase in HECS on regional university enrolments and the total enrolments of rural and regional students? If so, can you provide details?

Answer:

Impact of HECS Increase on regional university enrolments

The modelling of HECS-Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) payments to institutions from 2005 represented the anticipated impact of the new loan arrangements at an aggregate, rather than an institutional, level. It constituted an estimate only of the anticipated impact of the new student loan arrangements on the Commonwealth's financial position as part of the Budget process. The national aggregate estimates of HECS-HELP loans do not offer a basis to draw conclusions about the funding impact on individual institutions, or rural and regional students, as the assumptions underlying the estimates reflect a sector-wide analysis.