

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E451_05

Senator Stott-Despoja provided in writing.

Refers QoN E871_04

Question:

- a) The answer to question E871_04 stated that the cost of teaching and nursing courses will be exempt from any increase. However, since HECS charges are not set for a particular course but are calculated for each subject classified within that discipline, how will universities ensure that students in a nursing or teaching course will not be charged HECS greater than \$3,840 (or the National priorities amount) when they may be taking core subjects/prerequisites classified outside of the teaching or nursing discipline and hence may have a higher cost?
- b) What will be the cost of a basic nursing degree at each university in 2005?
- c) What will be the cost of a basic teaching degree at each university in 2005?

Answer:

Cost of Teaching and Nursing Courses

- a) The government's policy on maximum student contributions for National Priority areas is based at the unit of study level, not the course of study level. Students enrolled in nursing and education courses of study will pay the student contributions determined for each of their units of study. The maximum student contribution for nursing and education units of study does not apply to other units of study that nursing and education students undertake as part of their course of study.
- b) The cost of a basic nursing degree at each university in 2005 is not known because the government does not know the exact combination of units of study that a student will undertake in a basic nursing degree at each university in 2005.
- c) The cost of a basic teaching degree at each university in 2005 is not known because the government does not know the exact combination of units of study that a student will undertake in basic teaching degree at each university in 2005.