

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. E453_05

Senator Stott-Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

- a) What is the process for approving higher education providers under section 16-50 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003?
- b) What Federal funding will higher education providers, approved under section 16-50 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003, be eligible for?

Answer:

Approval process and funding for Higher Education Providers

- a) What is the process for approving higher education providers under section 16-50 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003?

Institutions wishing to be approved as higher education providers under section 16-50 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) may apply to the Minister for approval at any time, using the form of application approved by the Minister. The Application Pack is available on the Internet at <http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/hep/default.htm>, together with the Information Pack (information and advice about how providers can meet the requirements).

- b) Funding for which HEPS (approved under section 16-50 of HESA) are eligible:

All approved HEPs are entitled to receive FEE-HELP on behalf of their students. FEE-HELP is a loan scheme that assists eligible students to pay their tuition fees and covers all or part of a student's tuition fees, up to a lifetime limit of \$50,000.

Higher education providers that have been approved by the Australian Government under 16-50 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* may be eligible for Commonwealth supported places in national priority areas. Up to 1,400 National Priority Places have been reserved for allocation to private higher education institutions. Commonwealth Learning Scholarship (CLS) allocations are made to higher education providers which are in receipt of National Priority Places, but only in respect of their National Priority Places. Students holding a National Priority Place at an approved higher education provider may also be eligible for OS-HELP, a loan that assists students based in Australia to undertake some of their study overseas.