

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. E459_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to QoN E120_05

Question:

In answer E120-05 it is assumed that over-enrolments will not be cut beyond 5 per cent.

- a) On what basis is this assumption made?
- b) What would be the impact if it was instead assumed that on average across the system universities enrolled their target student load?

Answer:

Over enrolments

- a) In answer to question E120_05 the Department stated that on current estimates, and assuming that universities maintain a similar enrolment pattern to their 2003 enrolment data, there will be more than 7,000 extra HECS based student places in 2005, nearly 6,000 more in 2006, and approximately 7,000 extra places in each of 2007 and 2008, net of over-enrolment phased out beyond the 5 per cent limit.

Based on 2003 data the majority of universities' over-enrolment was above the 5 per cent limit. Given this level of over-enrolment it was assumed for the purpose of this answer that universities would over-enroll close to the 5 per cent limit.

- b) If all over-enrolment is ignored in the calculation then, based on current data, there will be an additional 10,000 HECS places in the sector in 2005, 17,000 additional HECS places in 2006, 22,000 additional HECS places in 2007 and 27,000 additional HECS places in 2008.