

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. E461_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

On what basis was determination T42-2004 (made on 31/8/04 and Gazetted on 15/11/04) made?

What, if any, criteria were used to determine that this course “.is not a course of study in respect of which students, or students of a specified kind, may be enrolled in units of study as Commonwealth supported students”?

How does the nominated course differ from similar courses offered by the Victorian College of the Arts and the National Institute of Dramatic Arts?

Answer:

Determination T42-2004

Swinburne University's Bachelor of Circus Arts is delivered by the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA). NICA receives direct funding for this course through contractual arrangements with the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts (DoCITA). The determination ensures that the course does not come within the ambit of higher education funding arrangements.

Swinburne University would be required, by the conditions of Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding under the *Higher Education Support Act (2003)* (HESA), to shift Commonwealth supported places from its other courses into the Bachelor of Circus Arts if this determination was not made. The Bachelor of Circus Arts would effectively be double-funded.

The fee setting arrangements for NICA students have not been changed. Students currently pay tuition fees for their course and these fees reflect the subsidy provided through DoCITA. The fee for domestic students in the course in 2005 is less than the maximum student contribution amount payable for a course of its type in 2005.

NIDA has been accredited to deliver its higher education courses by the NSW Department of Education and Training, whereas NICA delivers Swinburne University's Bachelor of Circus Arts course. The funding arrangements for NICA and NIDA courses are the same with Commonwealth subsidies provided through DoCITA contractual arrangements.

The Victorian College of the Arts delivers courses accredited by the University of Melbourne. Commonwealth subsidies are provided through the HESA funding arrangements.