

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome** 3

**DEEWR Question No.** EW759\_09

Senator Cash provided in writing:

#### **Question**

##### *International Student Enrolments*

- i) Given recent concern about the international financial crisis, is there any evidence of a down-turn in international, full fee paying student enrolments in Australian universities?
- ii) If there is evidence of a downturn:
  - a. how is the downturn expected to impact upon university budgets? Has any modelling been done? If so, please provide a copy of the modelling;
  - b. What strategies or policies if any, are being put in place, or are being considered, to help universities cover the shortfall in funding from the down-turn in international full fee paying student enrolments?
  - c. Is the Government considering reinstating domestic full-fee paying student places as a university revenue stream, given the international financial crisis and its negative impact upon the vitally important international full-fee paying revenue stream?
  - d. If not, why not?
- iii) If there is no evidence of a down-turn in international, full fee paying student enrolments in Australian universities is that because enrolments are not monitored in an on-going way?

#### **Answer**

- i) International enrolments in the higher education sector have shown no indication of a downturn in recent months. As at year-to-date September 2008, the higher education sector had grown by 7,670 enrolments, an increase of 4.5%, on September 2007 figures.
- ii) (a) - (d) N/A.
- iii) Data on international students is collected and published on a monthly basis by DEEWR. Year-to-date October 2008 data is expected to be available on the Australian Education International website in the first week of December.

Comprehensive data on new international student enrolments in universities for 2009 will be available in May 2009.