

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0673\_12**

**Senator Rhiannon provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Additional fee increases to meet Uni revenue shortfalls due to loss of International students***

Given the extent to which major universities are reliant on international student enrolments to meet operational costs, how will the Commonwealth ensure that domestic students will not unfairly be forced to bear additional fee increases to meet any revenue shortfalls that may stem from declining international student enrolments?

**Answer**

The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) sets the maximum student contribution amounts for a Commonwealth supported place for each discipline.

Universities set the tuition fee only for non-Commonwealth supported places.

HESA sets the maximum student services and amenities fee that a university may charge a student from 1 January 2012.

Higher education providers are also limited by the Higher Education Provider Guidelines made under HESA in what they may charge students as incidental fees.