

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0696_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme: (a) Can the department confirm that it will release guidelines for the proposed Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme by June 2015? (b) Can providers start developing their scholarship schemes prior to the release of the guidelines? How can providers prepare, prior to the release? (c) Will there be an approval process for each provider's scheme? How will the department ascertain that each scheme complies with the guidelines? (d) What will be the timelines here – by what date, approximately, will providers need to submit their draft schemes for approval? (e) Will that allow providers sufficient time to develop a scheme that complies with the guidelines? (f) Will details of each provider's scholarship scheme be available to student applicants prior to the closure of state-based applications for entry to higher education institutions? Isn't that date usually in August? (g) If details of each provider's scholarship scheme are not available by the time a prospective student must make an application, how will that student take scholarship availability into consideration when making his or her choice?

Answer

- a) The department will release the scheme's guidelines for consultation once they are agreed by the Government.
- b) Providers can start developing their scheme by viewing the proposed amendments to the Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014, Schedule 2 – New Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme.
- c) No. Providers will determine and publish the specific eligibility criteria and assessment procedures for the scheme at their institution. Compliance with the scheme will be a condition of grant for the Commonwealth Grant Scheme and non-compliance will be dealt with under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines.
- d) See answer to question c) above.
- e) The department intends to consult on the draft guidelines in March and April 2015 and publish final guidelines for the scheme in May 2015. This will allow providers sufficient time to ensure compliance.
- f) On-time applications to Tertiary Admissions Centres close in late September of each year and students can change their preferences until early January the following year. This will allow providers at least three months to make information about their proposed scholarships available prior to the closure of state-based applications for entry to higher education institutions.
- g) There should be sufficient time for providers to publish details of their proposed scholarships to inform student choices.