

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E793_04

Senator Carr asked on 20 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 11.

Question:

I would be interested to know where you think information that is sent to you is inaccurate (funding estimates for CGS)?

Answer:

Inaccuracies in funding data

Data received from universities often arrives incomplete or inaccurate and must be “cleaned” before it can be used for funding calculations or released for statistical purposes. Reasons for inaccuracies in data in 2003 include:

- University had inadvertently submitted an incomplete version of a data file
- University had coded students to a course/academic organisational unit that does not exist
- A large number of data records coded to “unknown” fields eg: Tertiary Entrance Score for school leave students is coded as “unknown”; postcode of permanent home residence is code as “unknown”.
- Data are inconsistent with data previously provided eg: students course commencement dates are inconsistent between submissions.