

**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING**

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FEBRUARY 2004**

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.3 International Group

**DEST Question No. E893\_04**

Senator Stott-Despoja provided in writing.

**Question:**

Please provide details of the costing used to arrive at the answer to DEST Question No. E660\_04.

**Answer:**

*International Education Student Visa Application Charge*

Table 1 shows the impact of the visa charge on the average student in each sector.

**Table 1. Visa fees as a proportion of average initial cost, by sector: 2003**

	Higher ed	Voc ed	Schools	ELICOS
Fees	\$14,481	\$11,816	\$10,661	\$10,134
Health cover	\$286	\$286	\$286	\$182
Visa	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Total initial cost	<b>\$15,166</b>	<b>\$12,501</b>	<b>\$11,346</b>	<b>\$10,715</b>
<i>Visa as % of initial cost</i>	2.6%	3.2%	3.5%	3.7%
<i>% increase in initial cost due to increase in visa fee</i>	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%

Table 2 shows the impact in some cases, where a student is studying in Australia for just over 3 months (when a student visa is required) in a low cost course.

**Table 2. Visa fees as a proportion of initial cost of selected shorter courses, 2003**

	VET, 26 weeks	ELICOS, 20 weeks	ELICOS, 12 weeks
Fees	\$4203	\$7144	\$3641
Health cover	\$156	\$130	\$78
Visa	\$400	\$400	\$400
Total initial cost	\$4758	\$7673	\$4118
<i>Visa as % of initial cost</i>	8.4%	5.2%	9.7%
<i>% increase in initial cost due to increase in visa fee</i>	1.6%	1.0%	1.9%