

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. E915_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

- a) When will the paper version of the Triennial report appear?
- b) The website version comes with the disclaimer that it doesn't include the changes brought about by the passage of the HESB. Can you give the Committee some sort of general guidance as to where the changes in the printed version will be?
- c) Will the printed version give forward estimates etc for 2005 and 2006?
- d) On what basis will it do that? Will you wait until all of the additional fully-funded places for those years are allocated by institution?
- e) Will you wait until all the Transition Fund, and other special funding, is allocated by institution?
- f) When will that be?
- g) The Introduction to the report says that it excludes "the new funding elements that will start in 2004." Can you provide details of what all of those are, including amounts?

Answer:

Triennium Report

- a) The Higher Education 2004 to 2006 Triennium Report is expected to be tabled and included in the Parliamentary Paper Series in the coming months. The final report will be distributed throughout the higher education sector and placed on the DEST website once the President of the Senate receives the tabled report.
- b) The final version of the report will be updated with confirmed data and will provide new funding elements for 2004. Text boxes have been designed and placed throughout the report to clearly indicate to readers the changes that will occur as a result of the reform package that were not detailed in the interim version on the DEST website.
- c), d), e) and f) The final report contains:
 - I. funding allocations by institution for 2004;
 - II. triennium projections and the expected Australian Government expenditure on higher education programmes at the aggregate level administered through the Education, Science and Training portfolio under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) for 2005 and 2006;

- III. allocations by institution for the Capital Development Pool for 2004 to 2006; and
- IV. forecast estimates of HECS liabilities, payments and accumulated debts to 2005/06.

The final report will not include allocations of additional fully-funded places by institution for 2005 and 2006, nor will it include allocations by institution of transition funding for 2005 and 2006. The Department is unable to make accurate predictions until funding agreements have been signed by institutions around mid-2004. Guidelines for some new programmes are also yet to be finalised.

- g) A summary of new measures established under HESA which commence in 2004 are set out in the following table.

Summary of new funding to institutions for 2004

Measure	\$m
Regional Loading – Commonwealth Grant Scheme loading for eligible regional campuses	27.9
National Priorities (Nursing) – increased funding per place for nursing students	9.8
New Nursing Places – 210 additional nursing places in 2004	2.1
New Medical Places – 234 additional nursing places in 2004	3.7
Commonwealth Learning Scholarships – 2500 Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships and 3000 Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships in 2004	17.0
Indigenous Staff Scholarships – 5 scholarships in 2004	0.2
Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council	0.3
Funding for Marcus Oldham College – payment in lieu of future annual funding allocations	2.1
Implementation costs – funds to contribute to the cost of implementation of the reforms	10.2
TOTAL	73.3