

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E078_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

- a) What has happened to the principle of equality of educational opportunity? Won't this mean that the wealthy have a whole range of options available to them that the poor will not have?
- b) How does the Government intend to deal with the political fallout of this situation?

Answer:

The \$50 000 cap

- a) The extension of income contingent loans to fee paying undergraduate students will ensure that those students that are offered a full fee-paying place but do not have the capacity to pay their tuition fee up front, are not prevented from accepting that place. This results in additional educational opportunities and choices for students, which would otherwise not be available.
- b) This is not a matter for the Department to comment on.