

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. E081_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003.

Question:

“The package proposes limitations on the number of years a student would be eligible for a Commonwealth-subsidised place and access to HECS – a limit of five years.

- a) What about people returning to study some years after doing a first degree, because they want or need a career change?
- b) Should these people be disadvantaged over those who decide initially to do a combined degree?”

Answer:

Learning entitlements

- a)b) People returning to study some years after a first degree will not be disadvantaged. In addition to the initial five year full time equivalent Learning Entitlement, the Commonwealth will also provide individuals with supplementary Learning Entitlement, in support of lifelong learning. The details of applying the lifelong Learning Entitlement are yet to be settled.