

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E092_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

The Commonwealth says that it is creating 25,000 “new Commonwealth supported places” over the four years from 2005.

- a) Can I get it on the record that, in fact, the Government is not creating any additional places here? That, actually, it’s simply converting an existing 25,000 marginally funded places to fully subsidised ones?
- b) You say that the places will be distributed around the country “according to Commonwealth priorities” after consultation with the States about labour market needs. So on what basis will they be distributed? On the basis of unmet demand levels? Or only on the basis of labour market needs? Or some other basis?

Answer:

New places

- a) Over-enrolled places, which are funded at the marginal rate, will be phased out over three years from 2005. At the same time, approx. 25,000 new Commonwealth supported places will be phased in, funded at the same level as all other Commonwealth supported places. It should be noted that the new places will be distributed according to Commonwealth priorities, taking into account discussions with the States and Territories.
- b) The Commonwealth will work with the States and Territories on a mechanism for the distribution of university places.