

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E082_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to E798_04 and E120_05

Question:

In February I asked how many new enrolments would result from changed Government policy. In answer E798_04 you have included the 9,100 fully funded commencing places which replace existing over-enrolments.

Isn't it the case that while these are new fully funded places they will not result in an increase in the number of Australians commencing a university course because the places are already being filled each year?

Can you provide us with these figures, excluding these converted places which do not increase the number of Australians able to commence a course each year?

Answer:

Fully funded places

The 9,540 places to be introduced in 2005 do not replace existing over-enrolments as they have not been allocated in that way. Criteria for allocating the new places were developed in conjunction with State and Territory authorities and did not include replacement of existing over-enrolments.

That said, universities that have more over-enrolment than the 5 per cent limit will have to commence reducing their over-enrolment down to the limit from 2005.

On current estimates, and assuming that universities maintain a similar enrolment pattern to their 2003 enrolment data there will be more than 7,000 extra HECS based student places in 2005 than in 2004, nearly 6,000 more in 2006, and approximately 7,000 extra in each of 2007 and 2008, excluding any remaining over-enrolments being phased out beyond the 5 per cent limit over the period 2005 - 2008.