

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. E100_05 - Amended

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Refers to E871_04

Question:

The answer to question E871_04, stated that the cost of teaching and nursing courses will be exempt from any increase. However, since HECS charges are not set for a particular course but are calculated for each subject classified within that discipline, how will universities ensure that students in a nursing or teaching course will not be charged HECS greater than \$3,840 (or the National Priorities amount) when they may be taking subjects classified outside of the teaching or nursing discipline and hence may have a higher cost?

- What will be the cost of a basic nursing degree at each university in 2005?
- What will be the cost of a basic teaching degree at each university in 2005?

Answer:

Teaching and Nursing Course

Under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (s93-10), students will be charged according to the units of study they undertake. In 2005, the student contribution amount for students undertaking nursing and teaching units of study will not be more than \$3,847 for those units. If a student undertaking a nursing or teaching course chooses to enrol in units of study that fall into a different student contribution band, providers are free to charge up to the maximum student contribution amount for those units. It is up to higher education providers to set the course content for nursing courses of study. However, it is the case that a student undertaking a nursing course of study, who only enrolls in nursing units of study, will not pay more than \$3,847 in 2005 for a full-time study load.

This is the case with teaching courses also.