

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E403_06

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

Question:

What was the process and timeline that led to the first listing of the 28 private providers that became HEPS in March of this year?

Answer:

Process for listing private providers as Higher Education Providers (HEPs)

An Application Pack and an Information Pack for bodies seeking approval as HEPs under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) were developed by the Department. The contents of these Information Packs complied with the requirements of sub-section 16-40(2) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

The Department held an Information Day for intending applicants on 5 May 2004. Representatives from Higher Education Group spoke about HEP application requirements.

Providers seeking access to FEE-HELP from January 2005 were requested to lodge applications by 9 July 2004. This date facilitated timely assessment by the Department of the large number of initial applications that were anticipated.

Applications were assessed in accordance with timelines set out in section 16-50 of the HESA. The process of assessment included checking financial viability; accreditation status; grievance, admission and review procedures and tuition assurance arrangements.