

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0315_11

Senator Scullion asked on 2/06/2010, Hansard page 48.

Question

Commonwealth Scholarship Program

Senator SCULLION—What was the cost for the Commonwealth Scholarships Program?

Mr Coutts—In 2010 there will be \$7.1 million provided for the Commonwealth Scholarships Program for new Indigenous Commonwealth scholarships. I do not have a figure for the continuing Commonwealth scholarships just for Indigenous students, but I can take that on notice.

Senator SCULLION—So is there an assumption that will continue? I have not looked at that in the budget. So is there an assumption that it will be around about the same figure?

Mr Coutts—Yes.

Answer

Following the Australian Government's reforms to student income support, the Commonwealth Scholarship Program's (CSP's) Commonwealth Education Scholarships and Accommodation Scholarships have been replaced by the Student Start-Up Scholarships and Relocation Scholarships respectively.

The CSP has been revised to account for these changes and now funds Commonwealth Scholarships for eligible Indigenous students. In 2010, \$7.672 million has been provided through the CSP to fund 2208 new Indigenous CS.

Under transition arrangements the CSP also continues to fund continuing students who were in receipt of Commonwealth Scholarships prior to the changes to income support. These students will be paid scholarships, providing they maintain their eligibility, until the CSP is finished. In 2010, \$108.022 million has been provided to fund 35,157 continuing Commonwealth Scholarships. Of that \$834,000 was allocated for 293 continuing scholarships for those students who identified as Indigenous.