

Funding Under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*



Funding Under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*

2.1 Overview of Australian Government Funding

Most of the Australian Government's *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* package of higher education reforms commenced in 2005. The majority of funding for the sector is administered under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA). Other funding is provided through annual appropriations. Some transitional funding will be administered under the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988* (HEFA) until 2007.

Australian Government funding for higher education non-research operating resources is largely provided through a base grant administered through the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS). The CGS provides for a specified number of Commonwealth supported places each year.

Other funds for the sector are provided through a range of grants, including for quality, equity, research and research training, collaboration, National Institutes, workplace productivity, learning and teaching, superannuation and the Capital Development Pool. These 'other grants' are made under the provisions set out in Section 41 of the HESA.

Funding is also provided in terms of assistance to students through the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) and through a range of scholarships designed to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Scholarships funding is provided under Section 46 of the HESA.

Table 4 represents the Australian Government estimated expenditure on higher education programmes administered through the Department of Education, Science and Training for 2005.

Table 4: Estimated expenditure on higher education programmes, 2005, 2006 and 2007

	2005	2006	2007
Programme	\$m	\$m	\$m
Commonwealth Grant Scheme			
Commonwealth Grant Scheme	3026.262	3224.695	3469.651
Enabling Loading	12.224	12.545	12.923
Regional Loading	28.47	29.239	29.927
Sub-total Commonwealth Grant Scheme	3066.956	3266.479	3512.501
Other Grants			
Capital			
Capital Development Pool	57.134	74.449	110.719
Collaboration			
Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund	7.744	18.920	11.366
Equity			
Higher Education Disability Support Programme	6.479	6.603	6.735
Higher Education Equity Support Programme	10.823	11.028	11.249
Indigenous Support Programme	27.088	29.314	31.645

Programme	2005 \$m	2006 \$m	2007 \$m
Learning and Teaching			
Learning and Teaching Performance Fund	0.080	54.416	83.379
National Institutes			
National Institutes	164.091	170.058	176.442
Quality, Promotion, Open Access			
Australian University Teaching Awards	1.871	4.577	4.668
Carrick Institute for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	0.999	21.798	22.234
Chair Child Protection - UniSA	1.022	1.041	1.062
Grants-in-Aid	0.018	0.018	0.018
Learned Academies	1.946	1.983	2.227
Open Learning Initiative	0.252	0.257	0.262
Quality Fund	2.165	2.368	2.334
Research			
Institutional Grants Scheme	290.591	296.113	302.035
Research Infrastructure Block Grants	182.982	199.908	203.907
Research Training			
Commercialisation Training Scheme	0.000	0.000	5.300
Regional Protection Scheme	3.029	3.086	3.148
Research Training Scheme	552.153	562.644	573.897
Superannuation			
Superannuation Grants	126.951	129.363	131.950
Systemic Infrastructure			
Systemic Infrastructure Initiative	55.902	54.673	0.000
Workplace Productivity			
Workplace Reform Programme	46.316	47.077	48.140
Workplace Productivity Programme	0.000	27.248	27.793
Sub-total Other Grants	1539.636	1716.942	1760.510
Other Funds			
Anglo-Australian Telescope Board ^(b)	4.594	4.701	4.701
Australian Education International ^(b)	5.750	5.847	5.847
Commercialisation Training Scheme ^(b)	0.250	0.000	0.000
Framework for open learning ^(b)	2.853	2.928	2.928
Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council ^(b)	0.274	0.278	0.278
National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy ^(b)	13.151	98.196	98.528
Special Infrastructure Projects ^(b)	197.000	11.500	4.000
VSU programmes ^(b)	0.000	23.807	37.195
Sub-total Other Funds	223.872	147.256	153.477
Scholarships			
Accommodation Scholarships	26.621	41.821	57.750
Australian Postgraduate Awards	91.180	93.121	95.346
Education Costs Scholarships	15.376	26.169	37.478
Indigenous Staff Scholarships	0.160	0.163	0.167
International Postgraduate Awards	18.115	18.459	18.828
Sub-total Scholarships	151.452	179.733	209.569

Programme	2005 \$m	2006 \$m	2007 \$m
Other			
Transition Funding ^(a)	21.989	9.791	7.845
TOTAL FUNDING	5003.905	5320.201	5643.902

Source: Higher Education Estimates 2006-Version 10

(a) Transition Funding programme funded under the Higher Education Funding Act 1988

(b) Financial year programme funded under the Annual Appropriations Act for 2005/06 onwards.

Note: 2005 figures are in 2005 price level, 2006 figures are in 2006 price level and 2007 figures are in 2007 price level.

2.2 Commonwealth Grant Scheme

2.2.1 Overview of Commonwealth Grant Scheme

The Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) replaced the operating grants system from 2005. It supports the provision of undergraduate and some non-research postgraduate higher education places.

Higher education providers listed in Table A of the HESA receive CGS funding. Table B providers and other providers approved under the HESA may receive CGS funding for courses of study in designated national priority areas.

Each higher education provider receiving funds under the CGS must enter into an annual funding agreement with the Australian Government.

The amount the Australian Government provides for each Commonwealth supported place or Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) varies according to the funding cluster in which a unit of study is classified. The rate for each funding cluster is specified in the HESA and Table 5 shows the Commonwealth contribution for each of the funding clusters in 2005.

Table 5: Commonwealth contribution amounts for 2005 for an equivalent full-time student load

Cluster	Discipline	Commonwealth contribution \$
1	Law	1 472
2	Accounting, Administration, Economics, Commerce	2 420
3	Humanities	4 078
4	Mathematics, Statistics	4 817
5	Behavioural Science, Social Studies	6 475
6	Computing, Built Environment, Health	7 212
7	Foreign Languages, Visual and Performing Arts	8 869
8	Engineering, Science, Surveying	12 003
9	Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science	15 047
10	Agriculture	15 996
National Priority	Education	7 116
National Priority	Nursing	9 511

Source: Higher Education Support Act 2003

In addition to the funding cluster rate, some places attract regional loading (Section 2.2.6), enabling loading (Section 2.2.7) and/or medical student loading (Section 2.2.8). The amount of any loading a provider will receive in a year is specified in the provider's funding agreement.

In 2005, the Australian Government agreed to fund a total of 409,393 Commonwealth supported places at eligible higher education providers.

Table 6 shows the agreed number of Commonwealth supported places and the CGS payment to each higher education provider for 2005. The CGS payment includes, where applicable, regional loading, enabling loading and medical student loading.

Table 6: Agreed number of Commonwealth supported places and CGS payments by provider, 2005

Higher Education Provider	Number of places (EFTSL)			Total funding ^(a) \$m
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate non-research	Total	
Australian Catholic University	6 183	488	6 671	47.7
Australian Maritime College	375	15	390	4
Australian National University	6 117	45	6 162	43
Avondale College	302	5	307	2.3
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	491	7	498	5.1
Central Queensland University	7 015	22	7 037	52.8
Charles Darwin University	2 638	138	2 776	25.7
Charles Sturt University	9 931	410	10 341	81.3
Christian Heritage College	30	0	30	0.2
Curtin University of Technology	12 680	118	12 798	105
Deakin University	13 606	357	13 963	97.2
Edith Cowan University	11 242	480	11 722	84.8
Flinders University of South Australia	7 681	60	7 741	58.6
Griffith University	16 648	138	16 786	120.1
James Cook University	8 279	115	8 394	69.7
La Trobe University	13 552	823	14 375	103.3
Macquarie University	9 720	462	10 182	59.6
Monash University	20 469	1 311	21 780	160.7
Murdoch University	6 345	275	6 620	49.3
Queensland University of Technology	19 446	418	19 864	136.1
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	12 977	419	13 396	109
Southern Cross University	5 469	144	5 613	38.8
Swinburne University of Technology	5 309	13	5 322	39.4
Tabor College	30	0	30	0.2
University of Adelaide	8 881	179	9 060	73.7
University of Ballarat	3 210	95	3 305	25.6
University of Canberra	5 186	275	5 461	36.5
University of Melbourne	17 285	1 310	18 595	150.9
University of New England	6 760	771	7 531	52.3
University of New South Wales	15 367	779	16 146	122.9
University of Newcastle	12 266	147	12 413	100.3
University of Notre Dame, Australia	554	6	560	4.5

Higher Education Provider	Number of places (EFTSL)			Total funding ^(a) \$m
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate non-research	Total	
University of Queensland	19 693	109	19 802	163.2
University of South Australia	13 475	680	14 155	103.3
University of Southern Queensland	6 881	378	7 259	54.1
University of Sydney	21 242	297	21 539	173.8
University of Tasmania	9 069	91	9 160	75
University of Technology, Sydney	12 327	619	12 946	89.3
University of the Sunshine Coast	2 603	0	2 603	21
University of Western Australia	9 544	265	9 809	77.4
University of Western Sydney	18 267	265	18 532	123.8
University of Wollongong	7 911	271	8 182	59.6
Victoria University	8 807	730	9 537	62.6
TOTAL	395 863	13 530	409 393	3 063.80

Source: Institution Financing Unit, DEST

(a) CGS payments include enabling loading, regional loading, medical loading and conditional increases.

2.2.2 Conditional increases in Commonwealth Grant Scheme

Higher education providers that complied with the National Governance Protocols and a workplace requirement (that higher education providers may offer Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs); this was replaced in 2005 for funding in 2006 by the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements (HEWRRs) – see Section 2.3.2) in 2005 received an additional 2.5% over the funding cluster rate in Table 5.

All eligible providers received the 2.5% increment above base CGS funding in 2005. This amounted to a total funding increase of \$73.4 million.

National Governance Protocols

The National Governance Protocols were introduced as an incentive for higher education providers to improve institutional governance.

Compliance with the National Governance Protocols is one of the requirements stipulated in the HESA for incremental increases to CGS funding of 2.5% in 2005, 5% in 2006, and 7.5% in 2007.

Legislative provisions gave the Minister discretion to approve the 2.5% funding increase in 2005 on the condition that a higher education provider had, by 31 August 2004, complied with some of the Protocols and made reasonable steps to meet the remaining ones. At that date, only the Australian National University had fully complied but the Minister accepted that all other higher education providers had made sufficient progress towards complying.

Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements

Introduced in 2005, for funding increases in 2006, the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements (HEWRRs) are designed to provide staff with greater choice and institutions with more flexibility. Universities are required to offer staff the choice of an AWA, and must engage in more direct relationships with their employees. Third party involvement, including union involvement in workplace relations and human resources matters, can only be at the express invitation of the affected university employees.

The HEWRRs will allocate additional funding for higher education institutions that implement workplace relations reforms that lead to flexibility in agreement making and increased productivity. Universities that meet the requirements, as well as the National Governance Protocols, are eligible for an increase in funding from the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (5% in 2006 and 7.5% in later years).

The HEWRRs are expected to drive significant reform in the higher education sector by improving choice and simplicity in agreement making, encouraging direct relationships with employees, and enhancing workplace productivity and performance. Progress has been made to build more flexible workplaces. Forty-two institutions met the HEWRRs requirements as at 30 November 2005, and the sector will receive an additional \$151 million in 2006 as a result.

The HEWRRs are expected to provide universities with an increased ability to attract and retain high quality staff by allowing for performance based agreements and tailored flexible working arrangements aimed at individuals. In allowing for more efficient and flexible workplaces the HEWRRs will enable universities to adapt to the changing needs of students and industry, thereby remaining relevant and competitive in the global education market.

2.2.3 Funding agreements

Each higher education provider receiving funds under the CGS must enter into an annual funding agreement with the Australian Government.

The agreement sets out the number of Commonwealth supported places the provider is funded to offer in each of 12 funding (or discipline) clusters, as well as any conditions attached to the grant. Through annual funding agreement discussions with the Australian Government, providers can request changes to the profile of their Commonwealth supported places across the funding clusters. This enables a provider to change its profile in response to changes in student demand and the institution's educational focus.

2.2.4 Allocation of new places

In 2005, the Australian Government allocated 9,100 new places announced as part of the *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* package of higher education reforms. The Government also allocated 440 aged care nursing places, 272 national priority places in teaching and nursing, and 346 new medical places in 2005. [Table 7](#) shows the allocation of new places at each higher education provider in 2005.

Table 7: New Commonwealth supported places allocated in 2005

Higher education provider	2005 allocation of new places ^(a)
Australian Catholic University	135
Australian Maritime College	0
Australian National University	225
Avondale College	72
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	0
Central Queensland University	195
Charles Darwin University	205
Charles Sturt University	358
Christian Heritage College	30
Curtin University of Technology	356

Higher education provider	2005 allocation of new places ^(a)
Deakin University	166
Edith Cowan University	487
Flinders University of South Australia	254
Griffith University	652
James Cook University	322
La Trobe University	170
Macquarie University	350
Monash University	116
Murdoch University	514
Queensland University of Technology	372
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	65
Southern Cross University	321
Swinburne University of Technology	140
Tabor College	30
University of Adelaide	159
University of Ballarat	120
University of Canberra	90
University of Melbourne	44
University of New England	211
University of New South Wales	78
University of Newcastle	505
University of Notre Dame, Australia	167
University of Queensland	392
University of South Australia	200
University of Southern Queensland	201
University of Sydney	538
University of Tasmania	435
University of Technology, Sydney	70
University of the Sunshine Coast	428
University of Western Australia	414
University of Western Sydney	571
University of Wollongong	354
Victoria University	165
TOTAL	10,677

Source: Institution Financing Unit (DEST)

(a) Includes pipeline of new places allocated from 2004 (368 regional nursing places, 146 medical places and 5 radiation therapy places).

2.2.5 National priority places

The Australian Government recognises teaching and nursing as national priority areas because of current and potential long-term shortages of qualified people in these professions. The Government funded 150 new places in teaching and 122 new places in nursing in 2005.

The Government also supported the identified national priority areas by increasing the Government funding per place through the CGS and setting lower student contribution ranges for Commonwealth supported units of study undertaken in these areas. In 2005, higher education providers could not set student contribution amounts for nursing and education units of study above \$3,547 for an equivalent full-time student load.

2.2.6 Regional loading

Regional loading supports higher education providers that offer places at eligible regional campuses. The regional loading is provided in recognition of the unique contribution these campuses make to their communities in regional and rural areas, and of the higher costs faced by providers due to their location, size and history. Regional campuses may also have a limited potential to diversify revenue sources, a smaller capacity to compete for fee-paying students and a narrower industrial base providing fewer opportunities for commercial partnerships.

A regional campus is defined as being located outside a mainland state capital city area (with the exception of Darwin) in a population centre with fewer than 250,000 people (excluding Wollongong). Eligible campuses are allocated to one of five funding bands on the basis of the size of the higher education provider and the distance of the campus from the nearest mainland capital city.

The regional loading is applied according to the number of (EFTSL) places provided at the regional campus. The amount of regional loading paid to each higher education provider in 2005 is set out in [Table 8](#).

2.2.7 Enabling loading

Enabling loading provides additional funding towards the costs associated with offering preparatory courses to students, with the aim of enabling the students to then undertake a course that leads to a higher education award.

Enabling loading is intended to compensate providers for not being able to charge student contributions for students in Commonwealth supported enabling courses. In 2005, the amount of the enabling loading for each (EFTSL) place was \$3,475.

The amount of enabling loading paid to each higher education provider in 2005 is set out in [Table 8](#).

2.2.8 Medical student loading

Medical student loading provides funding for Commonwealth supported places in a medicine course of study, completion of which would allow provisional registration as a medical practitioner.

The medical student loading continues the previous grants under the HEFA that assisted higher education providers with the costs associated with their own infrastructure in teaching hospitals. In 2005, the amount of the medical student loading for each (EFTSL) place was \$1,072.

The amount of medical student loading paid to each higher education provider in 2005 is set out in [Table 8](#).

Table 8: Commonwealth Grant Scheme loadings allocated to higher education providers in 2005

Higher Education Provider	Regional Loading \$	Enabling Loading \$	Medical Loading \$
Australian Catholic University	159 937	0	0
Australian Maritime College	202 213	0	0
Australian National University	0	0	171 200
Avondale College	0	0	0
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	1 029 624	660 928	0
Central Queensland University	1 967 181	1 034 496	0
Charles Darwin University	4 749 829	1 016 536	0
Charles Sturt University	1 734 182	359 200	0
Christian Heritage College	0	0	0
Curtin University of Technology	155 910	510 064	0
Deakin University	620 834	0	0
Edith Cowan University	170 243	380 752	0
Flinders University of South Australia	18 511	0	313 510
Griffith University	0	0	85 600
James Cook University	3 600 734	132 904	500 760
La Trobe University	986 629	7 184	0
Macquarie University	0	0	0
Monash University	171 299	107 760	801 430
Murdoch University	210 724	219 112	0
Queensland University of Technology	23 125	0	0
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	29 935	0	0
Southern Cross University	1 163 809	35 920	0
Swinburne University of Technology	0	0	0
Tabor College	0	0	0
University of Adelaide	57 266	111 352	542 490
University of Ballarat	1 220 140	35 920	0
University of Canberra	0	39 512	0
University of Melbourne	35 341	0	859 210
University of New England	2 253 727	79 024	0
University of New South Wales	0	0	690 150
University of Newcastle	32 858	3 706 944	402 320
University of Notre Dame Australia	53 955	0	53 500
University of Queensland	99 392	0	1 050 740
University of South Australia	53 084	298 136	0
University of Southern Queensland	1 405 085	858 488	0
University of Sydney	28 012	211 928	846 370
University of Tasmania	4 258 401	818 976	403 390
University of Technology Sydney	0	571 128	0
University of the Sunshine Coast	929 905	179 600	0
University of Western Australia	18 333	122 128	832 460
University of Western Sydney	0	161 640	0
University of Wollongong	975 257	222 704	0
Victoria University	0	341 240	0
TOTAL	28 415 475	12 223 576	7 553 130

Source: Institution Financing Unit (DEST)

2.2.9 Advances of Commonwealth Grant Scheme funds

In April 2005, the Minister approved an advance to the University of Newcastle of \$10 million from CGS funds. The advance will be repaid by reductions in CGS funding of \$2 million in 2006, \$3 million in 2007 and \$5 million in 2008. An additional advance of \$15 million was also approved to be recovered from the University's 2006 funding. The advances will assist the University to meet the up-front cost of restructuring necessary to put its finances on a sustainable footing.

2.2.10 Transition fund

Under Section 110A of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*, provision was made for discretionary transition funding to be made available to higher education providers to ensure that no provider would be financially worse off under the new CGS. A transition fund of \$39.6 million is available to fund payments to universities for this purpose in 2005, 2006 and 2007. A total of seven higher education providers received transition funding in 2005.

2.3 Other Grants

Funds are also provided to the higher education sector through a range of grants for specific purposes under Part 2-3 Other Grants of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. Eligibility for grants under this part is outlined in the Act.

Item	Purpose of Grant	Programmes/initiatives
1.	Grants to promote equality of opportunity in higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Education Disability Support Programme Higher Education Equity Support Programme Indigenous Support Programme
2.	Grants to promote the productivity of higher education providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace Productivity Programme Workplace Reform Programme
3.	Grants to enhance learning and teaching in higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning and Teaching Performance Fund
4.	Grants to support national institutes specified in the Other Grants Guidelines for the purposes of this item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Institutes
5.	Grants to support the capital development projects of higher education providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Development Pool
6.	Grants to assist with the cost of higher education providers' superannuation liabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superannuation Programme
7.	Grants to support research by, and the research capability of, higher education providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Infrastructure Block Grants Institutional Grants Scheme
8.	Grants to support the training of research students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Training Scheme Regional Protection Scheme
9.	Grants to foster collaboration and reform in higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund
10.	Grants to support the development of systemic infrastructure used by higher education providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic Infrastructure Initiative

Item	Purpose of Grant	Programmes/initiatives
11.	Grants for activities that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assure and enhance the quality of Australia's higher education sector; or Foster an understanding of the importance of, or promote research and scholarship in, science, social science or the humanities in Australia; or Support open access to higher education across Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Australian Awards for University Teaching Australian Universities Quality Agency Graduate Careers Australia Graduate Skills Assessment Learned Academies Grants to the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science Chair in Child Protection Open Learning Initiative Framework for Open Learning Programme

The Other Grants Guidelines contain requirements on grants payable to higher education providers and other eligible bodies for a variety of purposes. The Other Grants Guidelines are available at http://www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au/guidelines/other_guide.htm.

2.3.1 Equity

Grants to promote the equality of opportunity in higher education are paid through the Indigenous Support Programme, the Higher Education Disability Support Programme and the Higher Education Equity Support Programme

Indigenous Support Program

The Indigenous Support Programme (ISP) provides additional funding for higher education institutions to assist them in meeting the special needs of Indigenous Australian students, and to advance the goals of the Aboriginal Education Policy.

Funds are allocated to institutions according to objective indicators of performance using information from DEST's annual higher education student statistics collection.

To be eligible for ISP funding from 2005, institutions were required to provide evidence of the participation of Indigenous people in institutional decision-making processes; the existence of an institutional Indigenous employment strategy; and the implementation of enabling strategies for improving Indigenous students' access, participation, retention and success.

Evidence of these initiatives is collected through institutions' annual Indigenous Education Statements. Each institution is also required to report on their expenditure of ISP and indicate the amount of money provided to an Indigenous support centre or unit.

Table 9: Indigenous Support Programme allocations, 2005

Institution	\$'000	Institution	\$'000
Australian Catholic University	986	Swinburne University of Technology	74
Australian Maritime College	63	University of Adelaide	401
Australian National University	285	University of Ballarat	54
Batchelor Institute ^(a)	2 158	University of Canberra	333
Central Queensland University	734	University of Melbourne	728
Charles Darwin University	605	University of New England	661
Charles Sturt University	962	University of New South Wales	441
Curtin University of Technology	1 773	University of Newcastle	1 115
Deakin University	870	University of Queensland	888
Edith Cowan University	1 071	University of South Australia	805
Flinders University of SA	376	University of Southern Queensland	486
Griffith University	1 163	University of Sydney	1 071
James Cook University ^(b)	1 400	University of Tasmania	771
La Trobe University	311	University of Technology Sydney	1 105
Macquarie University	535	University of the Sunshine Coast	98
Monash University	348	University of Western Australia	507
Murdoch University	428	University of Western Sydney	693
Queensland University of Technology	1 379	University of Wollongong	489
RMIT University	149	Victoria University of Technology	113
Southern Cross University	659	TOTAL^(c)	27 088

Source: Formula driven result based on the Higher Education Student Statistics Collection, 2005

(a) Allocations for Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education from this programme have been separately determined as part of an agreement to maintain a total funding package for this institution at 1998 levels. The allocation was re-weighted for 2005 based on Batchelor's share of total 2004 EFTSL, to reflect changes both in the share of EFTSL across the sector since 1988 and to fairly allocate to Batchelor a share of additional funding provided for the Indigenous Support Programme from 2005.

(b) The allocation for James Cook University includes an additional allocation for undergraduate places on Thursday Island which is determined separately as part of an agreement to maintain funding at a rate negotiated in 2001 for these places.

(c) Additional funding of \$1.68m has been provided under this programme for 2005. The additional funding has been distributed according to the allocation formula, except as noted at (a) and (b) above.

Higher Education Disability Support Programme

The Higher Education Disability Support Programme provides funding to eligible higher education providers to undertake activities that assist in removing barriers to access for students with disabilities. In 2005, \$6.479 million was available through this programme to higher education providers listed in Table A of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

The programme consists of three components: Additional Support for Students with Disabilities, the Regional Disability Liaison Officer initiative, and performance-based disability support funding.

The first component of this programme, Additional Support for Students with Disabilities (ASSD), provides funding to higher education providers towards the cost of providing educational support services and equipment to students with disabilities with high-cost needs. This component recognises that while higher education providers are responsible for meeting the needs of students with disabilities, the provision of support for some students with high-cost needs is a significant cost to higher education providers.

In 2005, approximately \$3.4 million was allocated to higher education providers under the ASSD component. This included funding for alternative format materials, such as Braille and audio tapes, for students with vision impairments; sign interpreting services for hearing impaired students; and the purchase of equipment, such as voice recognition software and electric scooters for students with mobility difficulties.

The second component, the Regional Disability Liaison Officer (RDLO) initiative, aims to improve access to post-secondary education for students with disabilities by facilitating their transition from school to study, whether higher education or vocational education and training, and from study to work. RDLOs are hosted by higher education providers in ten regions of Australia. These officers provide information, coordination and referral services for people with disabilities interested in post-school education and training within a designated region. In 2005 funding of approximately \$0.9 million was allocated to this initiative.

The third component, performance-based disability support funding, aims to further encourage higher education providers to implement strategies to attract and support students with disabilities. This component of funding comprises that amount of funding which remains after allocations for the ASSD component and the RDLO component have been made to higher education providers. Funding allocations are based on the number of students with disabilities enrolled at each higher education provider, as well as the retention and success of those students. In 2005, approximately \$2.2 million was paid to higher education providers under the performance-based disability support component.

Details of funding allocations for 2005 under the Higher Education Disability Support Programme are provided in [Table 10](#).

Table 10: Higher Education Disability Support Programme allocations, 2005

Higher Education Provider	Additional Support for Students with Disabilities \$	Regional Disability Liaison Officer Initiative \$	Performance-Based Disability Support \$	Total \$
New South Wales				
Charles Sturt University	18 986		76 041	95 027
Macquarie University	126 490		57 477	183 967
Southern Cross University	135 741		35 880	171 621
University of New England	19 244		61 550	80 794
University of New South Wales	101 022		63 190	164 212
University of Newcastle	90 170	87 552	74 807	252 529
The University of Sydney	43 819		62 245	106 064
University of Technology Sydney	207 409		56 397	263 806
University of Western Sydney	292 618	87 552	97 018	477 188
University of Wollongong	30 056		122 838	152 894
Victoria				
Deakin University	136 598		49 598	186 196
La Trobe University	281 511		84 569	366 080
Monash University	209 235		117 508	326 743
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	148 624		62 397	211 021
Swinburne University of Technology	37 891		15 676	53 567

Higher Education Provider	Additional Support for Students with Disabilities \$	Regional Disability Liaison Officer Initiative \$	Performance-Based Disability Support \$	Total \$
The University of Melbourne	312 939		80 995	393 934
University of Ballarat	5 044	87 552	16 033	108 629
Victoria University of Technology	65 757		28 555	94 312
Queensland				
Central Queensland University	21 895	87 552	73 107	182 554
Griffith University	85 527		78 622	164 149
James Cook University	42 971	87 552	40 147	170 670
Queensland University of Technology	122 792		94 157	216 949
The University of Queensland	148 516		78 969	227 485
University of Southern Queensland	88 332	87 552	55 861	231 745
University of the Sunshine Coast	15 073		19 849	34 922
Western Australia				
Curtin University of Technology	40 695	87 552	29 711	157 958
Edith Cowan University	42 374		23 262	65 636
Murdoch University	76 940		63 708	140 648
The University of Western Australia	40 058		35 061	75 119
South Australia				
The Flinders University of South Australia	55 229		59 391	114 620
The University of Adelaide	52 206		44 358	96 564
University of South Australia	78 930	87 552	110 510	276 992
Tasmania				
Australian Maritime College	0		2 194	2 194
University of Tasmania	67 089	87 552	53 885	208 526
Northern Territory				
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	13 519		3 772	17 291
Charles Darwin University	36 283	87 552	15 997	139 832
Australian Capital Territory				
The Australian National University	53 058		69 805	122 863
University of Canberra	39 781		21 970	61 751
Multi-state				
Australian Catholic University	25 364		56 584	81 948
TOTAL	3 409 786	875 520	2 193 694	6 479 000

Source: ASSD – application-based reimbursement; RDLO – grant based allocations; Performance based funding - formula-derived result based on the Higher Education Student Statistics Collection, 2004

Higher Education Equity Support Programme

Providers are required to use Higher Education Equity Support Programme (ESP) funds for equity initiatives which target disadvantaged students and encourage sustainable improvements in access, participation, retention and success for students from low socio-economic backgrounds, students from rural and isolated areas, students with a disability and students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

In addition, providers may implement measures that assist in overcoming educational disadvantage associated with gender. Providers may tailor their programmes to address specific disadvantage, as appropriate to the demographics of their student population and catchment area.

Allocations under the ESP, available to Table A providers, are based on enrolments, retention and success of students from low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds, with a weighting to low SES students from rural and isolated backgrounds.

To be eligible for funding, providers must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- run outreach programmes to attract disadvantaged students to higher education;
- offer specialised support for disadvantaged students to assist their progression through higher education;
- administer application and selection processes for the Commonwealth Learning Scholarships (CLS); and
- provide institutional equity scholarships to complement the CLS.

Table 11 sets out the ESP funding by higher education provider for 2005.

Table 11: Higher Education Equity Support Programme allocations, 2005

State/Higher Education Provider	\$'000	State/Higher Education Provider	\$'000
New South Wales		Queensland University of Technology	530
Charles Sturt University	493	The University of Queensland	619
Southern Cross University	234	University of Southern Queensland	747
Macquarie University	73	University of the Sunshine Coast	260
University of New England	461	Western Australia	
University of New South Wales	105	Curtin University of Technology	326
University of Newcastle	349	Edith Cowan University	384
The University of Sydney	164	Murdoch University	231
University of Technology, Sydney	103	The University of Western Australia	159
University of Western Sydney	189	South Australia	
University of Wollongong	104	Flinders University of South Australia	218
Victoria		The University of Adelaide	174
Deakin University	295	University of South Australia	468
La Trobe University	331	Tasmania	
Monash University	397	Australian Maritime College	58
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	225	University of Tasmania	640
Swinburne University of Technology	84	Northern Territory	
The University of Melbourne	212	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	23
University of Ballarat	137	Charles Darwin University	52
Victoria University of Technology	195	Australian Capital Territory	
Queensland		The Australian National University	46
Central Queensland University	850	University of Canberra	32
Griffith University	329	Multi-State	
James Cook University	425	Australian Catholic University	102
		TOTAL	10 823

Source: Formula-derived result based on the Higher Education Student Statistics Collection, 2004 (DEST)

2.3.2 Productivity

Grants to promote the productivity of higher education providers are paid through the Workplace Productivity Programme and the Workplace Reform Programme.

Workplace Productivity Programme

The Workplace Productivity Programme (WPP), which was announced as part of the Australian Government's reforms under *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future*, will provide \$83.3 million between 2006 and 2008 to assist universities to progress workplace reform that strengthens their capability to manage and implement workplace change. The programme is intended to encourage flexible working relationships, direct relationships between employers and employees, and improved productivity and performance.

A discussion paper on the WPP was released in July 2005 and draft programme guidelines were developed and circulated to the higher education sector for comment in December 2005. Eleven responses were received, all of which were supportive of the programme and its objectives.

Workplace Reform Programme

The Workplace Reform Programme (WRP) commenced in 2000 and offered higher education institutions additional funding equivalent to 2% of the salary component of the operating grant, conditional on reforms being implemented in management, administration and workplace practices.

In December 2003, the programme was discontinued. Universities whose application for second round funding was received by DEST before 31 December 2003, and which were subsequently successful in obtaining that funding, received the funding on a permanent basis. This removed the potential need for universities to reapply for funding under WRP in future years, as previously envisaged under the programme. Part of the WRP funding was rolled into the Commonwealth Grant Scheme from 2005.

Through the WRP, higher education institutions received \$43.7 million in 2005.

2.3.3 Learning and teaching

Grants to enhance learning and teaching in higher education are paid through the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

Learning and Teaching Performance Fund

The Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF) was introduced to reward universities that best demonstrate excellence in teaching and learning for domestic undergraduate students. The fund will provide \$250 million over three years from 2006.

The allocation process for the first funding round was decided following extensive consultation with the sector in 2004 and 2005. Stage 1 asked universities to submit evidence of institutional commitment to teaching and learning. Stage 2 used a quantitative model to assess learning and teaching outcomes.

The allocation process commenced in 2005 for funding in 2006.

Three groups of performance indicators were used in the model:

- student satisfaction;
- student outcomes; and
- success.

The data for these indicators were derived from responses to the Course Experience Questionnaire, the Graduate Destination Survey and the department's student statistical collections, respectively.

The data were adjusted to allow the department to estimate the unique influence of each university on its performance outcome.

The results of the model were reviewed by an expert panel, which was chaired by Sir David Watson, then Vice-Chancellor of Brighton University in the United Kingdom. The panel made recommendations to the Minister on those universities that should receive funding.

The 2006 allocation was finalised in November 2005 and \$54 million was subsequently shared among 14 universities (Table 12).

With the aim of further improving the fund's methodology, the department released a discussion paper for consultation with the sector in December 2005.

Table 12: Universities funded under the 2006 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund

The following universities shared approximately \$30 million in funding for best demonstrating excellence in teaching and learning:

Higher Education Provider (alphabetical order)	Amount \$m
Australian Maritime College	1.143
Swinburne University of Technology	3.852
The University of Melbourne	9.853
The University of Queensland	10.424
University of Wollongong	5.108

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

The following universities also achieved excellent results in teaching and learning and in recognition shared approximately \$24 million in funding:

Higher Education Provider (alphabetical order)	Amount \$m
Australian Catholic University	2.110
Monash University	4.591
Murdoch University	2.034
The Australian National University	2.060
The University of Sydney	4.950
The University of Western Australia	2.580
University of Ballarat	1.560
University of Canberra	1.898
University of New England	2.218

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

2.3.4 National Institutes

Grants to support national institutes specified in the Other Grants Guidelines for this purpose are paid through the National Institutes programme.

National Institutes programme

The programme provides funding to the Australian National University, the Australian Maritime College and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in recognition of their national role in particular areas of higher education.

For the Australian National University, National Institute funding reflects the University's special position as a higher education provider established under Commonwealth legislation. For Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, National Institute funding helps to address the higher costs of the Institute's operations in serving Indigenous communities. For the Australian Maritime College, National Institute funding reflects the College's special position as an institute established under Commonwealth legislation with a mission to provide qualifications for the maritime industry.

In 2005, the Australian Government provided \$164.1 million in funding for National Institutes (\$157.9 million to the Australian National University, \$4.2 million to the Australian Maritime College and \$2 million to Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education). Additional funding of \$19.3 million over four years was also announced to further support the work of the National Institutes. This includes:

- funding of \$16.4 million for the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Australian National University as a transitional arrangement from 2005 to 2007 (\$2.7 million in 2005, \$5.4 million in 2006 and \$8.3 million in 2007); and
- funding of \$3 million to develop a new campus of the Australian Maritime College at Point Nepean, Victoria. Funds for this initiative will be appropriated over 2005-2008.

2.3.5 Capital development

Grants to support the capital development projects of higher education providers are funded under the Capital Development Pool programme. Some additional capital projects are funded under the Annual Appropriations Act.

Capital Development Pool

The Capital Development Pool (CDP) was established in 1994 to assist higher education providers with special capital projects. The Australian Government considers higher education providers' applications for assistance on a competitive basis. It obtains the views of State and Territory governments on the relative merits of project proposals.

Proposals for CDP grants for 2008 were submitted in 2005. The Australian Government will be providing \$45 million in 2008 for the CDP programme allocated through the competitive bidding process in 2005.

The programme primarily supports four types of projects:

- development of, or on, new campuses in suburban growth corridors and regional centres. Priority will be given to projects which support greater collaboration between higher education providers, between higher education providers and Vocational Education and Training providers, and between higher education providers, other organisations and the private sector;

- capital developments that assist higher education providers to establish or expand provision of courses identified by the government as discipline areas of national importance;
- information and communications technology infrastructure projects which improve the cost-effectiveness and quality of educational delivery, for example, by improving the efficiency of the higher education provider's infrastructure, or by providing access to education and research networks; and
- the rebuilding or restoration of campus facilities in circumstances which are, in the view of the Minister, special and extraordinary.

The new campus developments approved for funding in 2008 include the extension of facilities at the Cradle Coast Campus of the University of Tasmania, the extension of the Caboolture Campus of the Queensland University of Technology and the expansion of the teaching facilities at both the Ourimbah and Port Macquarie campuses of the University of Newcastle.

The approved Information and Communication Technology projects will enable campuses to communicate more rapidly and reliably with other higher education providers and provide for greater access to online resources.

In 2008, the CDP will support the Australian Government's efforts to increase the supply of health workforce professionals by funding the establishment of health facilities, such as the Podiatric Medicine Training Centre at the University of Western Australia and the provision of nursing facilities at Edith Cowan University's Joondalup Campus.

Table 13 sets out each State and Territory's CDP funding by higher education provider for the years 2006-08. As a result of the 2005-06 Budget, additional funding of \$22.9 million is available for allocation for 2007 and \$23.3 million is available for allocation for 2008.

Table 13: Capital Development Pool allocations by institution 2006-2008 (adjusted to 2006 dollars)

State /Higher Education Provider	Project	2006	2007	2008
New South Wales				
Charles Sturt University	School of Rural Health, Thurgoona campus	2.129		
Charles Sturt University	Extension to Current Facilities, Orange Campus		1.186	
Charles Sturt University	Connection to AREN		1.040	
Charles Sturt University	Veterinary Science Facilities, Wagga Wagga Campus			2.404
Southern Cross University	Tweed Gold Coast Campus development		2.081	
The University of New England	ICT for student learning resources	1.065		
The University of New England	E-Learning Commons		2.081	
The University of Newcastle	Teaching facilities at Ourimbah Campus			2.003
The University of Newcastle	Teaching and Library facilities at Port Macquarie Campus			3.476
The University of Newcastle	City Precinct Fibre Link and ICT architecture implementation	1.491		
The University of Newcastle	Multi-sector e-Learning		0.884	
The University of Sydney	Camden Campus Restoration		2.081	
University of Technology, Sydney	Nursing and Midwifery Facility		2.081	
University of Western Sydney	Wireless based infrastructure	2.129		
University of Wollongong	Virtual Learning Environments and Visualisation Institute (VLEVI)	1.065		

State /Higher Education Provider	Project	2006	2007	2008
Victoria				
Deakin University	Development of the e-campus	1.065		
Deakin University	Dennys Lascelles Building		2.081	
La Trobe University	Enhanced ICT connections to regional campuses	1.075		
La Trobe University	Central media streaming server and regional edge servers	0.520		
La Trobe University	New Central ICT Building, Bundoora		1.683	
La Trobe University	New Campus Development, Shepparton		1.561	
Monash University	Enhanced ICT connections between campuses	1.757		
Monash University	Gippsland Education Precinct		2.081	
Monash University	Frankston Regional Aquatic Health and Wellness Centre			2.504
RMIT University	Upgrade of ICT systems for regional campuses	1.157		
RMIT University	ICT and Teaching Space Infrastructure, Bundoora Campus		1.136	
Swinburne University of Technology	ICT infrastructure upgrade, Wantirna, Croydon and Lilydale		2.081	
University of Ballarat	Enhanced ICT infrastructure for regional campuses	1.059		
University of Ballarat	Communications Centre Redevelopment and Inter-Campus Links		0.700	
University of Ballarat	Integrated Library and Information Services			2.855
University of Melbourne	Extension to Victorian Education and Research Network		0.686	
Victoria University	Upgrade ICT connections between campuses	1.451		
Victoria University /Swinburne	ICT for common student and courses admin system			
Victoria University	Footscray Park Campus redevelopment			2.504
Queensland				
Central Queensland University	Technology and Information Resource Centre, Mackay Campus		2.081	
Griffith University	Academic Building 2 at Logan Campus	2.129		
Griffith University	Medical school infrastructure	2.129	2.081	
James Cook University	ICT upgrade	2.129		
Queensland University of Technology	ICT link to Caboolture Campus	1.065		
Queensland University of Technology	Teaching and learning spaces, Caboolture Campus			2.504
The University of Queensland	ICT upgrade, Gatton Campus	1.065		
University of Southern Queensland	Stage 3 - Wide Bay Campus	1.288		
University of Southern Queensland	Wide Bay development - ICT infrastructure and Stage 3		2.081	
University of Southern Queensland	Wine Science Laboratory, Stanthorpe			1.673
University of the Sunshine Coast	Stage 6 - the Science Building		2.081	
University of the Sunshine Coast	Stage 6 - the Science Building			2.003

State /Higher Education Provider	Project	2006	2007	2008
Western Australia				
Curtin University of Technology	Re-location of the Department of Applied Chemistry to the Minerals and Chemistry Research and Education Precinct			5.009
Edith Cowan University	Indigenous Centre, Mt Lawley Campus	2.129		
Edith Cowan University	Nursing facilities, Joondalup Campus			2.504
Murdoch University	University Learning Centre, Mandurah Campus	2.129	2.081	
The University of Notre Dame Australia	ICT infrastructure, Medical School	2.129		
The University of Notre Dame Australia	Teaching facilities, Fremantle Campus			1.002
University of Western Australia/ Curtin/Edith Cowan	Geraldton Universities Centre		2.081	
The University of Western Australia	Podiatric Medicine Training Centre			2.504
South Australia				
Flinders University	Science Innovation Learning Centre		1.040	2.100
University of Adelaide	Enhanced ICT connections between campuses	2.129		
University of South Australia	Electronic delivery infrastructure	0.745		
University of South Australia	Mawson Lakes Campus Development	2.129		
University of South Australia	Access Grids at City West, City East, Magill and Mawson Lakes		0.312	
University of South Australia	Building 3A, City West Campus			2.504
University of South Australia	Redevelopment of facilities, Mt Gambier Campus			1.596
Tasmania				
Australian Maritime College	ICT infrastructure		0.556	
Australian Maritime College	Upgrade of Integrated Marine Simulator			3.766
University of Tasmania	Community Learning Centre, Cradle Coast Campus			2.003
University of Tasmania	ICT infrastructure between campuses	2.129		
Northern Territory				
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Facility for ICT infrastructure		2.081	
Charles Darwin University	The Alice Springs Higher Education Centre	2.129		
Charles Darwin University	Extension of Research School of Environmental Studies (RSES)		2.081	
Australian Capital Territory				
Australian National University	Medical School and Integrated Regional Health Facilities	2.129	2.081	
Multi-State				
Australian Catholic University	Enhanced ICT infrastructure between Sydney campuses	1.363		
Australian Catholic University	Restoration of facilities and ICT upgrade at Signadou Campus		0.835	
TOTAL AUSTRALIA		44.908	44.915	44.914

Source: Institutional Reporting and Analysis Unit (DEST)

Note: Discrepancies in column totals are due to rounding.

Additional capital projects

In addition to the capital works funded through the competitive Capital Development Pool process, the Australian Government has allocated (Table 14):

- \$12 million over 2 years from 2005 for the medical school at the University of Tasmania;
- \$12 million over 2 years from 2005 to James Cook University for the development of a new School of Veterinary Science and Tropical Agricultural Science;
- \$2 million over 3 years from 2005 to Charles Darwin University for upgrades to ICT infrastructure;
- \$25 million over 3 years from 2006 as the Commonwealth share of the cost of developing a new medical school at the University of Western Sydney with the NSW State Government and the University;
- \$18 million over 3 years from 2006 to the University of Western Sydney for the upgrading of facilities, including a new teaching building, a library and laboratories;
- \$15 million in 2007 to James Cook University for an anatomy laboratory and clinical skills laboratories;
- \$7.5 million in 2007 to the University of Queensland for additional facilities for medical training; and
- \$3 million in 2007 to the University of New England to establish a new rural medical programme with the University of Newcastle.

Table 14: Additional capital projects funded under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, 2005-2008

Higher Education Provider	Project	2005	2006	2007	2008
		\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Charles Darwin University	IT Infrastructure upgrading	1	0.5	0.5	
James Cook University	Veterinary School	6	6		
James Cook University	Medical School			15	
University of Tasmania	Medical School	6	6		
University of New England	Medical School			3	
University of Queensland	Medical School			7.5	
University of Western Sydney	Medical School		13	6	6
University of Western Sydney	Infrastructure projects		4	10	4
TOTAL		13	29.5	42	10

Source: Institutional Reporting and Analysis Unit (DEST)

Under the Annual Appropriations Act, a further \$186 million has been approved for special infrastructure projects between 2005 and 2008 (Table 15), including:

- \$10 million over two years, commencing in 2005-06 for capital works for a new medical school at the University of Wollongong;
- \$2 million in 2005-06 and a further \$2 million in 2007-08 for the University of Notre Dame Australia's Broadway and Darlinghurst (Sydney) campuses to help meet the costs of refurbishment and development;
- \$12 million in 2005-06 for a Global Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention at the University of Wollongong, which will strengthen Australia's capacity to deal with transnational crime by training graduates in investigating and preventing organised crime activities;

- \$125 million in 2005-06 to the Australian National University. Of this funding, \$75 million is for general capital works with the refurbishment of science laboratories as a first priority. The University will provide \$50 million of its own funds for the capital works. \$50 million of the funding is for the Stage 2 redevelopment of the John Curtin School of Medical Research;
- \$4.5 million in 2005-06 to Bond University for the construction of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine building;
- \$5 million in 2005-06 to Monash University for a new postgraduate Medical School at its Gippsland campus;
- \$18 million in 2005-06 to Deakin University to establish a Medical School with a rural and regional focus; and
- \$4 million over three years commencing in 2005-06 to establish an Institute of Islamic Studies open to all students and based at an Australian university.

Table 15: Capital projects funded under the Annual Appropriations Act

Higher Education Provider	Project	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
		\$m	\$m	\$m
Australian National University	John Curtin School of Medical Research refurbishment and other capital works	125		
Bond University	Health Sciences and Medical building	4.5		
Deakin University	Medical School	18		
Deakin University	Alfred Deakin Institute		4	
Monash University	Medical School	5		
Provider to be announced	Institute of Islamic Studies		1.5	2
University of Notre Dame Australia	Broadway & Darlinghurst campuses	2		2
University of Wollongong	Medical School	5	5	
University of Wollongong	Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention	12		
TOTAL		171.5	10.5	4

Source: Institutional Reporting and Analysis Unit (DEST)

2.3.6 Superannuation

Grants to assist with the cost of higher education providers' superannuation liabilities are paid through the Superannuation Programme.

Superannuation Programme

The Australian Government provides funding to higher education providers to cover the additional superannuation expenditure they incur for some current and former staff who are members of State emerging cost superannuation schemes. A proportion of the funding is recovered from the relevant States under cost share arrangements.

In 2005, the Australian Government continued with the review of the funding arrangements, with a view to replacing them by simpler procedures for all parties based on actuarial measurement of the liabilities. Measurement of the liabilities in respect of Tasmania commenced.

In 2005, \$107.4 million (of \$127 million available) was expended on the programme. The recovery from the States was \$25.7 million.

2.3.7 Research

Grants to support research by, and the research capability of, higher education providers are paid through the Research Infrastructure Block Grants and the Institutional Grants Scheme.

Research Infrastructure Block Grants

Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG) provide block research funding on a calendar year basis to enhance the development and maintenance of research infrastructure. RIBG funds are allocated to eligible higher education providers based on their relative share of Australian competitive grant income. In 2005, \$183 million was allocated to eligible higher education providers under this scheme (Table 16).

Table 16: Research Infrastructure Block Grants allocations, 2005

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RIBG Allocation ^(a) \$
New South Wales	
Charles Sturt University	1 082 233
Macquarie University	2 667 217
Southern Cross University	475 592
The University of New England	2 182 116
The University of New South Wales	16 215 215
The University of Newcastle	4 476 009
The University of Sydney	21 150 451
University of Technology, Sydney	1 898 036
University of Western Sydney	1 358 959
University of Wollongong	3 066 219
Victoria	
Deakin University	1 939 573
La Trobe University	2 937 284
Melbourne College of Divinity*	0
Monash University	12 705 777
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	1 231 201
Swinburne University of Technology	1 025 133
University of Ballarat	219 288
The University of Melbourne	25 038 357
Victoria University	706 478
Queensland	
Bond University*	16 483
Central Queensland University	377 980
Griffith University	2 831 524
James Cook University	1 804 258
Queensland University of Technology	2 049 454
The University of Queensland	17 277 500
University of Southern Queensland	434 962

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RIBG Allocation ^(a)
	\$
University of the Sunshine Coast*	72 389
Western Australia	
Curtin University of Technology	1 676 150
Edith Cowan University	471 939
Murdoch University	2 852 614
The University of Notre Dame Australia*	0
The University of Western Australia	13 902 985
South Australia	
The Flinders University of South Australia	3 064 403
The University of Adelaide	13 773 160
University of South Australia	1 495 109
Tasmania	
Australian Maritime College*	79 856
University of Tasmania	4 914 337
Northern Territory	
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education*	0
Charles Darwin University	469 670
ACT	
The Australian National University	14 486 690
University of Canberra	355 176
Other	
Australian Catholic University	200 223
TOTAL	182 982 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Data underlying each scheme's allocation (except the Regional Protection Scheme) is sourced from the Higher Education Research Data Collection from DEST's University Statistics Unit.

(a) Columns may not sum due to rounding.

** Denotes a designated 'small' higher education provider. Until 2006, small HEPs were eligible to receive additional RTS funds over and above the allocation that they would receive based on performance only. The small HEPs provision was discontinued from 2006. 42 higher education providers are eligible to receive RTS, IGS and RIBG Funds.*

Institutional Grants Scheme

The Institutional Grants Scheme (IGS) provides block research funding, on a calendar year basis, to eligible higher education providers to support research and research training activities. Higher education providers have discretion in the way they spend their IGS funds. The IGS may be used to fund any activity related to research.

The IGS allocation mechanism reflects providers' relative success in a performance index comprising research income (60%), Commonwealth funded research student load (30%) and research publications (10%). In 2005, \$291 million was allocated to eligible higher education providers under this scheme (Table 17).

Safety Net

In 2005, a 5% safety net on losses was added to the IGS allocation mechanism replacing the former 5% cap on increases. The safety net is a response to recommendations from the 2003 Knowledge and Innovation evaluation. It prevents providers from losing more than 5% of their IGS allocation from year to year.

Table 17: Institutional Grants Scheme allocations, 2005

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RIBG Allocation ^(a) \$
New South Wales	
Charles Sturt University	1 483 580
Macquarie University	5 838 855
Southern Cross University	1 336 270
The University of New England	3 592 363
The University of New South Wales	23 781 916
The University of Newcastle	6 591 675
The University of Sydney	29 973 222
University of Technology, Sydney	3 968 774
University of Western Sydney	3 437 603
University of Wollongong	5 568 943
Victoria	
Deakin University	3 828 196
La Trobe University	5 864 397
Melbourne College of Divinity*	175 875
Monash University	20 920 731
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	5 231 466
Swinburne University of Technology	2 176 127
University of Ballarat	677 824
The University of Melbourne	32 771 643
Victoria University	1 962 220
Queensland	
Bond University*	77 846
Central Queensland University	1 208 869
Griffith University	6 409 352
James Cook University	4 016 784
Queensland University of Technology	5 082 244
The University of Queensland	29 051 968
University of Southern Queensland	1 095 699
University of the Sunshine Coast*	186 068

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RIBG Allocation ^(a)
	\$
Western Australia	
Curtin University of Technology	5 887 998
Edith Cowan University	1 697 805
Murdoch University	5 027 342
The University of Notre Dame Australia*	98 489
The University of Western Australia	16 253 929
South Australia	
The Flinders University of South Australia	6 574 322
The University of Adelaide	16 311 291
University of South Australia	4 663 530
Tasmania	
Australian Maritime College*	247 931
University of Tasmania	7 200 800
Northern Territory	
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education*	79 300
Charles Darwin University	1 153 125
ACT	
The Australian National University	16 667 927
University of Canberra	1 765 776
Other	
Australian Catholic University	650 925
TOTAL	290 591 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Data underlying each scheme's allocation (except the Regional Protection Scheme) is sourced from the Higher Education Research Data Collection from DEST's University Statistics Unit.

(a) Columns may not sum due to rounding.

** Denotes a designated 'small' higher education provider. Until 2006, small HEPs were eligible to receive additional RTS funds over and above the allocation that they would receive based on performance only. The small HEPs provision was discontinued from 2006. 42 higher education providers are eligible to receive RTS, IGS and RIBG Funds.*

2.3.8 Research training

Grants to support the training of research students are paid through the Research Training Scheme and the Regional Protection Scheme.

Research Training Scheme

The Research Training Scheme (RTS) provides block research funding, on a calendar year basis, to eligible higher education providers to support research training for students undertaking doctorate and masters degrees by research.

The allocation mechanism for the RTS changed in 2005, in response to recommendations from the 2003 Knowledge and Innovation evaluation. The new allocation mechanism was developed by the AVCC. For 2005 the mechanism returns 75% of higher education providers' previous years' allocations and allocates the remaining 25% according to providers' relative success in a performance index

comprising research income (40%), higher degree by research student completions (50%) and research publications (10%). In 2005, \$552 million was allocated to eligible higher education providers under this scheme (Table 18).

Safety Net

In 2005, a 5% safety net on losses was added to the RTS allocation mechanism replacing the former 5% cap on increases. The safety net, which is also a response to recommendations from the 2003 Knowledge and Innovation evaluation, prevents higher education providers from losing more than 5% of their RTS allocation from year to year.

Small higher education providers

In 2005 designated 'small' higher education providers were entitled to apply for additional RTS funds. The objective was to assist the providers with emerging research training profiles to grow.

The designated small higher education providers were: Melbourne College of Divinity, Bond University, University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Notre Dame Australia, Australian Maritime College and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. This small higher education provider provision of the RTS is to be discontinued from 2006 funding onwards.

Table 18: Research Training Scheme allocations, 2005

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RTS Allocation ^(a) \$
New South Wales	
Charles Sturt University	3 166 693
Macquarie University	11 861 084
Southern Cross University	3 076 628
The University of New England	8 471 323
The University of New South Wales	42 138 012
The University of Newcastle	12 567 130
The University of Sydney	56 901 982
University of Technology Sydney	9 796 882
University of Western Sydney	8 286 660
University of Wollongong	13 133 907
Victoria	
Deakin University	8 524 780
La Trobe University	13 348 278
Melbourne College of Divinity*	253 744
Monash University	39 162 472
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	12 636 244
Swinburne University of Technology	5 087 855
University of Ballarat	1 191 634
The University of Melbourne	56 851 292
Victoria University	5 340 119

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RTS Allocation ^(a)
	\$
Queensland	
Bond University*	149 570
Central Queensland University	2 714 479
Griffith University	12 325 685
James Cook University	8 490 602
Queensland University of Technology	10 421 986
The University of Queensland	53 227 996
University of Southern Queensland	2 239 582
University of the Sunshine Coast*	695 971
Western Australia	
Curtin University of Technology	11 675 640
Edith Cowan University	3 971 307
Murdoch University	9 106 467
The University of Notre Dame Australia*	255 267
The University of Western Australia	28 904 215
South Australia	
The Flinders University of South Australia	11 093 375
The University of Adelaide	29 639 959
University of South Australia	7 797 416
Tasmania	
Australian Maritime College*	193 734
University of Tasmania	15 680 348
Northern Territory	
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education*	62 717
Charles Darwin University	2 219 335
ACT	
The Australian National University	25 597 366
University of Canberra	2 796 618
Other	
Australian Catholic University	1 096 646
TOTAL	552 153 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Data underlying each scheme's allocation (except the Regional Protection Scheme) is sourced from the Higher Education Research Data Collection from DEST's University Statistics Unit.

(a) Columns may not sum due to rounding.

** Denotes a designated 'small' higher education provider. Until 2006, small HEPs were eligible to receive additional RTS funds over and above the allocation that they would receive based on performance only. The small HEPs provision was discontinued from 2006. 42 higher education providers are eligible to receive RTS, IGS and RIBG Funds.*

Regional Protection Scheme

The Regional Protection Scheme (RPS) helps to protect designated regional higher education providers from losses they incur in total RTS and IGS funds against a baseline established in 2001. From 2005, RPS is limited to \$3 million annually (indexed) (Table 19).

Designated regional higher education providers are: Charles Sturt University; Southern Cross University; University of New England; University of Newcastle; University of Wollongong; Deakin University; La Trobe University; University of Ballarat; Central Queensland University; James Cook University; University of Southern Queensland; University of Tasmania; and Charles Darwin University.

Table 19: Regional Protection Scheme allocations, 2005

State/Higher Education Provider	2005 RPS Allocation ^(a) ^(b) \$
New South Wales	
The University of New England	394 006
The University of Newcastle	1 141 770
University of Wollongong	108 159
Victoria	
La Trobe University	931 954
Queensland	
Central Queensland University	12 137
James Cook University	335 894
Northern Territory	
Charles Darwin University	105 080
TOTAL	3 029 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

(a) Columns may not sum due to rounding.

(b) Due to the change in funding available through the Regional Protection Scheme a direct comparison, based on dollar figures from 2002 to 2005 should not be used as a reflection of a Regional HEPs need for RPS support.

* Denotes a designated 'small' higher education provider. Until 2006, small HEPs were eligible to receive additional RTS funds over and above the allocation that they would receive based on performance only. The small HEPs provision was discontinued from 2006.

13 higher education providers are eligible for the RPS.

2.3.9 Collaboration

Grants to foster collaboration and reform in higher education are paid through the Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund.

Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund

The Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund (CASR) commenced operation on 1 January 2005 with the aim of achieving better higher education outcomes in teaching, learning, research and innovation by promoting structural reform and collaboration in the higher education sector.

During 2005, CASR funds were used to foster collaboration between higher education providers and business, schools, the vocational education and training sector, professional associations and community groups (Table 20).

\$46.797 million has been allocated to CASR over the 2005-2009 calendar years.

Table 20: Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund allocations, 2005

Grant Recipient	Project Title	Funding provided in 2005 \$
New South Wales		
Macquarie University	Academic Leadership and Management: Developing Strategies for Support Enhancement and Succession Planning	22 781
	Breaking the Barriers Between TAFE and University – Developing a model for collaboration around higher education and VET pathways in Environmental Sciences and Management	70 000
	Redevelopment of Macquarie Customised Accessibility Services (M-CAS) – A service to universities that provides individually tailored learning experiences for students with disabilities	99 213
	Establishment of a student exchange programme in Environmental Science and Environmental Management between leading universities across Australia	104 800
University of New England	Cross-Institutional Rationalisation of Language Teaching – Provision of German at the University of Newcastle by the University of New England	60 000
University of Newcastle	Curriculum redesign	1 400 000
University of Sydney	Clinical learning opportunities for physiotherapy undergraduates	80 500
University of Technology Sydney	Enhancing student learning through formative assessment - to improve the quality of assessment across the Australian Technology Network (ATN) Universities	73 631
University of Western Sydney	Accessing the student voice: using CEQ comments to improve the quality of learning programmes in Australian universities	32 600
	To formalise and disseminate the work of the Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA)	100 000
	Professional development for university governing bodies	115 000
Western Australia		
Murdoch University	Study into the feasibility of a merger of Curtin and Murdoch universities	194 193
South Australia		
The University of Adelaide	Australian Chemistry Enhanced Laboratory Learning Project (ACELL) – A central resource of chemistry laboratory exercises developed and tested by staff from 32 participating Australian universities and members of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute	73 091
University of South Australia	ATeNergy – provision of graduate and post-graduate energy education and energy R&D	153 918
Tasmania		
University of Tasmania	Amalgamation with Australian School of Fine Furniture	675 000
	Renewing the Region – the establishment of a collaborative Institute for Enterprise and Regional Development	187 641
Australian Capital Territory		
The Australian National University	Consolidation and expansion of the University Industry Linkages in Chemistry (UniChe) project.	100 000
University of Canberra	Beyond Articulation - the establishment of an Office of Cross Sectoral Collaboration at the University of Canberra to facilitate resource sharing and flexible pathways with the Canberra Institute of Technology	68 100
Queensland		
Queensland University of Technology	e-Grad School (AUSTRALIA) – the collaborative development of virtual graduate school services	76 878
	Indigenous Pathways @ Caboolture – a collaborative project to extend educational opportunities for the indigenous community	50 000
The University of Queensland	Advanced Engineering Capability Network (AECN) – improving outcomes in higher engineering education training and innovation through new patterns of collaboration between industry and universities	150 000

Grant Recipient	Project Title	Funding provided in 2005 \$
	The Development and Implementation of a Curriculum Articulation Model for Nursing between the University and TAFE Sectors	57 954
	A feasibility study on innovative approaches to the provision of languages other than English in Australian Higher Education – Australian Council of the Deans of Arts Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH)	313 000
	PhD Graduates 3 to 5 Years Out: Employment Outcomes, Job Attributes and the Quality of Research Training – a longitudinal study of PhD graduates from seven Go8 universities	100 000
University of Southern Queensland	Establishment of the Australian Graduate School of Engineering – A collaborative venture between four universities	168 000
	Beyond education: graduates into the workforce – to identify the skills necessary for the effective transition of graduates to the workforce and to assess whether universities are effectively meeting corporate/business needs	50 061
	Joint degree in Wine Science – developed and delivered in collaboration with Charles Sturt University	86 500
Victoria		
La Trobe University	Use of WebCT to Support Regional Nursing Students	50 000
Monash University	Effective pedagogy for improving critical thinking – ARC linkage project	6 950
	Frankston Peninsula Health and Wellbeing Precinct – a feasibility study into the establishment of a multi-disciplinary regional health and wellbeing centre	34 000
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Koori Cohort Programme – to increase the access participation and achievement of Indigenous postgraduate researchers and students	69 700
	International Partnership for the Collaborative Development and Delivery of a Post-Graduate Program in Automotive Engineering – a collaborative project to develop and deliver an International Masters course in automotive engineering	54 000
	The Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program - supports projects that benefit the sustainability of the Southern Grampians region and surrounds	83 000
Swinburne University of Technology	Business Link – a service to actively connect undergraduate and postgraduate students to short term paid work-based projects related to their area of study	102 429
The University of Melbourne	Integration of the Victorian College of the Arts and the University of Melbourne	691 860
Victoria University of Technology	Re-engineering Engineering - an industry-led approach to new courses and pathways in Victoria by 2007	111 500
Other Incorporated Bodies		
Academy of Social Sciences of Australia	Academy of Social Sciences of Australia - Operational funding	115 000
Australian Academy for the Humanities	Australian Academy for the Humanities - Operational funding	115 000
Business/Higher Education Round Table Ltd	Sponsorship of B-HERT Annual Awards	20 000
Council for Humanities Arts & Social Sciences	Council for Humanities Arts and Social Sciences - operational funding	200 000
General Sir John Monash Foundation	General Sir John Monash Awards (Administration Costs)	100 000
General Sir John Monash Foundation	General Sir John Monash Awards (Contributions to Endowment Fund)	465 700
General Sir John Monash Foundation	General Sir John Monash Awards (Scholarships)	800 000
Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT) Pty	Commonwealth Learning Scholarships Central - Centralised Application and Assessment of Commonwealth Learning Scholarships for Institutions Participating in the Universities Admissions Centre	62 000
TOTAL		7 744 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

2.3.10 Systemic infrastructure

Grants to support the development of systemic infrastructure used by higher education providers is paid through the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative.

Critical to Australia's research capacity and future growth is a robust research infrastructure. Through the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative (SII), part of *Backing Australia's Ability*, funding of \$246 million from 2002 to 2006, is being directed towards projects which strengthen infrastructure resources to support high quality research and research training at Australian universities.

The SII provides funding for innovative approaches which link or expand access to shared facilities or high priority investments that will bring sector-wide strategic benefits.

Systemic Infrastructure Initiative

SII funds are directed to key areas including the provision of high-speed communications links and facilitating discovery, access and dissemination of scholarly and scientific information. Funds are allocated on the advice of the Australian Research and Education Network Advisory Committee (ARENAC) and the Australian Research Information Infrastructure Committee (ARIIC).

Through the SII, the government has provided over \$84 million for high-speed communications links and access to broadband, bolstered by co-investment from universities; the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO); and State and Territory governments. The resulting communications capacity is facilitating improved research collaboration, providing greater access to remote instruments, and enabling better quality, faster transmission of e-learning resources. This funding has been used to establish the Australian Research and Education Network (AREN), one of the largest and most advanced fibre optic research and education networks in the world.

On the recommendation of the ARIIC, the government has provided over \$52 million for 22 projects to improve research information infrastructure. The projects will provide improved access to information; develop software solutions for storing and organising digital information in institutional repositories; curate and preserve research data sets and information; and provide solutions which link authorised users to research and information within and between institutions. These projects draw together research communities without the need to build capital facilities, provide access to large amounts of research data that were previously inaccessible; and provide access to information in areas of fundamental importance to the community including medical and environmental research.

The SII has provided \$29 million to the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC) over 2004 to 2006 to strengthen the national advanced computing capabilities and to develop the national advanced computing and grid infrastructure to serve the Australian research community. Part of this funding was used to install the new supercomputing system of APAC's National Facility. The APAC National Facility provides a world-class advanced computing service to Australian researchers as part of the APAC National Grid.

The projects funded by SII are delivering benefits across the entire research sector. To this end there is extensive collaboration being undertaken between universities and industry to ensure that the solutions and tools being developed can be applied to a wide range of research environments and behaviours. These tools will allow researchers to work more effectively, collaborate in new ways in secure virtual environments and allow Australian research to perform at the highest level.

Table 21: Systemic Infrastructure Initiative allocations, 2005

Institution	Project	2005 Funding \$
New South Wales		
Macquarie University	IMS Australia - Core Funding	800 000
Macquarie University	Meta Access Management System Project	1 298 285
Macquarie University	Australian Service for Knowledge of Open Source Software	60 880
The University of New South Wales	TimeSync: Mapping the Global Financial System	575 000
The University of Sydney	Administrative Support and Project Management for Information Infrastructure	200 000
The University of Sydney	National Broadband Adviser for Education	150 000
Victoria		
Monash University	Australian Research Repositories Online to the World	1 085 000
Monash University	Victorian Education and Research Network Stage 2	3 000 000
Monash University	Dataset Acquisition, Accessibility and Annotation e-Research Project	1 618 500
The University of Melbourne	Molecular Medicine Informatics Model: A Multi-institutional, Multi-disciplinary Research and Training Platform for Clinical Research	2 354 529
Queensland		
James Cook University	Queensland Research and Education Network - Sunshine Backbone Interim Stage 2	500 000
James Cook University	Laboratory Upgrades: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Parasitology	1 250 000
Queensland University of Technology	Legal Protocols for Copyright Management: Facilitating Open Access to Research at the National and International Levels	665 000
The University of Queensland	e-Security Framework for Researchers	206 000
The University of Queensland	Middleware Action Plan and Strategy	164 932
University of Southern Queensland	Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively	1 345 474
Western Australia		
Murdoch University	Perth to Mandurah Link	2 202 000
The University of Notre Dame	Centre for Research in Health and Education	2 675 000
South Australia		
The Flinders University of South Australia	South Australian Research and Education Network	750 000
Tasmania		
University of Tasmania	Tasmanian Research and Education Network	4 000 000
University of Tasmania	BlueNet: The Australian Marine Science Data Network	888 000
Northern Territory		
Charles Darwin University	155Mbps Link Between AARNet PoP at Adelaide and Charles Darwin University	1 855 400
Australian Capital Territory		
The Australian National University	Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing 2004-2006	16 000 000
The Australian National University	High Bandwidth Research Link with the United States of America	8 400 000
The Australian National University	Access for the Higher Education and Research Sectors to the Nextgen Network	3 000 000
The Australian National University	Towards an Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories	858 000
TOTAL		55 902 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

2.3.11 Quality

Grants for activities that assure and enhance the quality of Australia's higher education are paid to the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, the Australian Universities Quality Agency, Graduate Careers Australia and the Australian Council for Educational Research.

The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education provides a national focus for the enhancement of learning and teaching in Australian higher education.

2005 was a planning year for the Carrick Institute, with Professor Lesley Parker, Planning Director, progressing planning, development and consultation relating to the establishment of the institute and its programmes. A budget of \$3.727 million was provided to enable planning to proceed and to continue work associated with the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

The Carrick Institute board consists of the following members:

- Professor John Hay AC (Chair)
- Mr Tim Besley
- Professor Margaret Gardner
- Professor Elizabeth Harman
- Professor Daryl Le Grew
- Professor Terence Lovat
- Professor David Ian O'Connor
- Professor Belinda Probert
- Professor Lynne Hunt
- Dr Kenneth Rowe
- Dr Brian Millis
- Ms Helen Paphitis
- Mrs Judith Wheeldon

The board met five times during 2005 and endorsed the operational plan for the planning phase and five strategic priority areas for 2006-08:

1. A Grants Scheme - encompassing three major programs: a Priority Projects Program; a Competitive Grants Program; and a Leadership Capacity-Building Program.
2. Discipline-Based Activities - to provide for discipline-specific development, dissemination and application of good practice.
3. A Resource Identification Network - to provide a repository service which facilitates the sharing and adoption of good practice in learning and teaching.
4. The Carrick Fellowship Scheme - designed to support national and international fellows.
5. A scheme for the Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching - designed both to reward excellence and to provide for maximum benefit to the system as a whole (Table 22).

The Carrick Institute's inaugural annual report was tabled in Parliament in October 2005.

Professor Richard Johnstone was appointed as the Executive Director in November. Significant progress was made in all areas during 2005 and the Carrick Institute was on target to be fully operational in January 2006.

Australian Awards for University Teaching

The Carrick Institute managed the 2005 Australian Awards for University Teaching. Table 22 and 23 list the individual and institutional winners of the 2005 awards, who were announced at a ceremony at Parliament House on 29 November 2005. From 2006, the awards will be known as the Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching.

Table 22: Australian Awards for University Teaching, individual awards, 2005

Award category	Award recipient	Institution	\$
Biological Sciences, Health and Related Studies	Professor Joanne Wood	Queensland University of Technology	40 000
Early Career Academics	Mr Colin Jones	University of Tasmania	40 000
Humanities and the Arts	Associate Professor Michael Christie, Ms Waymamba Gaykamangu, Ms Betty Marrnganyin & Mr John Greatorex	Charles Darwin University	40 000
Law, Economics, Business and Related Studies	Professor Michelle Barker	Griffith University	40 000
Neville Bonner Award	Associate Professor Susan Green	The University of New South Wales	40 000
Physical Sciences and Related Studies	Dr Michael Bulmer	The University of Queensland	40 000
Prime Minister's Award for University Teacher of the Year	Associate Professor Michael Christie, Ms Waymamba Gaykamangu, Ms Betty Marrnganyin & Mr John Greatorex	Charles Darwin University	35 000
Social Sciences	Dr Sandra Frid & Dr Len Sparrow	Curtin University of Technology	40 000
TOTAL			315 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Table 23: Australian Awards for University Teaching, institutional awards, 2005

Award category	Institution	\$
Approaches to Improving/Enhancing Assessment	The University of Queensland	50 000
Enhancement of the Quality of Teaching and Learning in the Applicant's Institution	The University of Queensland	50 000
Provision of Educational Services to the Community	University of Technology Sydney	50 000
Provision of Support Services that Assist Student Learning	Curtin University of Technology	50 000
	Deakin University	50 000
Teaching Large, First Year Classes	The University of Queensland	50 000
TOTAL		300 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Australian Universities Quality Agency

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) was established by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) in 2000 as an independent national body. AUQA is responsible for the following:

- conducting quality audits of self-accrediting higher education providers and State and Territory accreditation authorities on a five yearly cycle;
- publishing reports revealing the outcomes of these audits;
- commenting on the criteria for the accreditation of new universities and non-university higher education awards, as a result of information obtained during the audits of higher education providers and State and Territory accreditation processes; and
- reporting on the relative standards and international standing of the Australian higher education system and its quality assurance processes obtained during the audit process.

The Australian Government funds 50% of AUQA's core operating grant, the States and Territories contribute the other half, and higher education providers/accreditation authorities also pay a fee for audit.

Since the first round of audits commenced in 2002, ten higher education providers/accreditation authorities have been audited per year. A list of higher education providers audited in 2005 and an audit report for each institution is available at www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/index/shtml.

Universities and agencies are asked to indicate how they intend to address the recommendations made in the audit report and are expected to report on their progress at a later stage. Should a higher education provider or agency receive a negative audit report, it is the responsibility of the governing body of that institution or agency, and if required the relevant government, to determine appropriate action.

AUQA hosts a national forum on quality annually. The Australian Universities Quality Forum (AUQF) was held in Sydney from 6-8 July 2005 with the theme 'Engaging Communities' attended by nearly 230 delegates.

AUQA – offshore auditing

In 2005, the Australian Government provided additional funds totalling \$490,000 to increase AUQA's offshore auditing activities and to assist AUQA in the development of bilateral relationships with overseas quality agencies. This additional funding has enabled AUQA to strengthen its focus on the quality of transnational education through activities such as increasing the number of overseas visits and enhancing training activities to support audit directors in this area. These activities commenced in 2005 and will continue during 2006.

Graduate Destination Survey & Course Experience Questionnaire

Funding for Graduate Careers Australia (GCA), formerly the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, totalled \$598,000 in 2005. This funding was provided to GCA to conduct the annual Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) and the Graduate Destinations Survey (GDS). During 2004, DEST also provided additional funds of \$350,000 to conduct a project during 2005 designed to enhance the GDS. The aim of the project was to facilitate an examination of the critical factors leading to enhancements to the survey instrument, methodology and processes. In late 2005, GCA held a forum to canvass early findings of the project and seek feedback from the sector.

Graduate skills assessment

Since 1999, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) has been developing and administering a test of generic skills that can be assessed at university entry and exit level. This tool provides an objective measure of the generic skills of graduates in the areas of critical thinking, problem solving, interpersonal understanding and written communication.

The funding allocated for the Graduate Skills Assessment in 2005 was \$455,000.

2.3.12 Promotion of research and scholarship

Grants for activities that promote research and scholarship in, science, social science or the humanities in Australia are paid through the Learned Academies programme, the Grants to the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science programme and the Chair in Child Protection.

Learned Academies

Grants under this programme provide funds to support the operation of the National Academies Forum and the four Learned Academies: the Australian Academy of Science; the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia; the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering; and the Australian Academy of the Humanities. These grants assist the academies, notably in promoting research and scholarship in their fields of expertise and providing a source of advice to the Australian Government regarding research related issues.

The Learned Academies received a total of \$1.946 million in 2005 under this programme (Table 24).

Table 24: Learned academies, funding allocations, 2005

Academy	\$
Australian Academy of Science	856 359
Australian Academy of the Humanities	333 614
Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (includes \$62 233 for the National Academies Forum)	422 786
Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia	333 240
TOTAL	1 946 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Grants to the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science

Grants under this programme provide funding to support the participation of students from each Australian State and Territory to attend an annual Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) Youth Conference. ANZAAS aims to promote communication between scientists in different disciplines and foster public interest in science and technology.

The Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science received \$18,000 in 2005 under this programme.

Chair in Child Protection

The Australian Government is providing \$10 million over ten years from 2004, to support a Chair in Child Protection at the University of South Australia.

The funding is being used to undertake collaborative research and facilitate its translation into policy, programme development, professional education and service delivery, in order to enhance the life opportunities of children at risk of abuse or neglect in Australia.

2.3.13 Open access

Grants for activities that support open access to higher education are paid through the Open Learning Initiative and the Framework for Open Learning Programme.

Opening Learning Initiative – Administrative payment to Open Universities Australia

Under the Commonwealth agreement with Open Universities Australia, the Government provided financial assistance to Open Universities Australia for administration costs relating to FEE-HELP. In 2005, \$153,982 was paid to Open Universities Australia for the administration of FEE-HELP.

Framework for Open Learning Programme

In 2005, the Framework for Open Learning Programme (FOLP) continued to promote the uptake of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education and training to meet the challenges of the 21st century information economy. The programme underpins Australia-wide cross-sectoral cooperation, through funding and other arrangements to enable all key stakeholders to undertake collaborative ICT work relevant to the education and training sector.

The major component of the FOLP activities during 2005 was the support to *education.au limited*, a ministerially-owned company, that carried out MCEETYA endorsed long-term collaborative exercises and key government initiatives, including the management of EdNA Online, the Government Education Portal, the Le@rning Federation and *myfuture*.

The FOLP also supported the Australian ICT in Education Committee (AICTEC) which is the national cross sectoral forum advising MCEETYA on issues relating to the educational use of ICT. AICTEC brings together key stakeholders from the higher education, schools and vocational training and education sectors. Its work priorities relevant to higher education for 2005 were:

- providing advice to ensure that legislative arrangements and other agreements relating to digital copyright and technological protection measures did not impact negatively on education;
- developing approaches to high speed access to the internet at a fair price. In particular leveraging from the work done in the higher education and research sectors across to the schools and the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sectors;
- developing approaches to promote interoperability across the education and training sectors; and
- developing policies for the administration of the .edu.au domain.

2.4 Scholarships

2.4.1 Commonwealth Learning Scholarships

The Commonwealth Learning Scholarships (CLS) consists of the Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS) and Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships (CAS). The programme provides financial assistance to students from low socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those from rural and regional areas and Indigenous students. Students may receive the scholarships for up to four years. The value of the scholarships is indexed annually. In 2005, the value of the CECS was \$2,042 and the value of the CAS was \$4,084. The CECS are provided to assist with the general costs of education, while the CAS are provided to assist students from rural and regional areas, who have had to move away from home in order to pursue their studies, with the costs of accommodation.

Table 25 sets out the number of CLS allocated to higher education providers for 2005.

Table 25: Number of scholarships allocated under the Commonwealth Learning Scholarships, 2005

Higher Education Provider	CECS	CAS	Higher Education Provider	CECS	CAS
New South Wales			The University of Queensland	280	206
Avondale College	3	2	University of Southern Queensland	139	71
Charles Sturt University	144	77	University of the Sunshine Coast	57	44
Macquarie University	72	40	Western Australia		
Southern Cross University	78	48	Curtin University of Technology	213	164
University of New England	98	38	Edith Cowan University	186	128
University of New South Wales	109	82	Murdoch University	96	71
University of Newcastle	206	159	The University of Notre Dame Australia	10	8
The University of Sydney	179	138	The University of Western Australia	94	72
University of Technology, Sydney	121	94	South Australia		
University of Western Sydney	183	134	Flinders University of South Australia	94	72
University of Wollongong	83	65	The University of Adelaide	104	79
Victoria			University of South Australia	218	140
Deakin University	163	78	Tasmania		
La Trobe University	160	120	Australian Maritime College	5	4
Monash University	198	143	University of Tasmania	170	129
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	125	92	Northern Territory		
Swinburne University of Technology	47	34	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	56	48
The University of Melbourne	149	112	Charles Darwin University	39	24
University of Ballarat	42	31	Australian Capital Territory		
Victoria University of Technology	138	100	The Australian National University	40	31
Queensland			University of Canberra	34	26
Central Queensland University	160	86	Multi-state		
Griffith University	221	169	Australian Catholic University	98	54
James Cook University	147	105	TOTAL		
Queensland University of Technology	270	200		5 029	3 518

Source: Formula-derived result based on the Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, various years (DEST)

Table 26 sets out the funding provided to higher education providers for CLS in 2005. The 2005 grant amount includes the second year of funding for CLS allocated in 2004.

Table 26: Total Commonwealth Learning Scholarships funding for 2005

Higher Education Provider	\$	Higher Education Provider	\$
New South Wales			
Avondale College	26 546	The University of Queensland	2 421 812
Charles Sturt University	974 034	University of Southern Queensland	863 766
Macquarie University	573 802	University of the Sunshine Coast	516 626
Southern Cross University	618 726	Western Australia	
University of New England	557 466	Curtin University of Technology	1 709 154
University of New South Wales	1 035 294	Edith Cowan University	1 402 854
University of Newcastle	1 715 280	Murdoch University	745 330
The University of Sydney	1 668 314	University of Notre Dame Australia	77 596
University of Technology, Sydney	1 059 798	The University of Western Australia	847 430
University of Western Sydney	1 625 432	South Australia	
University of Wollongong	751 456	Flinders University of South Australia	812 716
Victoria		The University of Adelaide	906 648
Deakin University	1 147 604	University of South Australia	1 629 516
La Trobe University	1 531 500	Tasmania	
Monash University	1 782 666	Australian Maritime College	42 882
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	1 176 192	University of Tasmania	1 690 776
Swinburne University of Technology	447 198	Northern Territory	
The University of Melbourne	1 425 316	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	414 526
University of Ballarat	453 324	Charles Darwin University	251 166
Victoria University of Technology	1 163 940	Australian Capital Territory	
Queensland		The Australian National University	416 568
Central Queensland University	1 037 336	University of Canberra	328 762
Griffith University	1 894 976	Multi-state	
James Cook University	1 243 578	Australian Catholic University	696 322
Queensland University of Technology	2 309 502	TOTAL	41 993 730

Source: Formula-derived result based on the value of CECS and CAS in 2005.

2.4.2 Indigenous Staff Scholarships

The Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme assists Indigenous staff (academic or general) to participate in higher education and complete their courses. The scholarships enable staff of eligible higher education providers to take one year of leave from their employment to undertake full-time higher education study in their chosen academic or professional area. This recognises their commitment to assisting students in higher education and enhances their own academic and professional standing.

In 2005, five national scholarships were awarded for study in 2006 (Table 27). Each scholarship provides funds to cover tuition fees and/or student contribution amounts for that year, and a stipend for each student.

Applicants for Indigenous Staff Scholarships are considered by the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council, which provides advice to the Minister for Education, Science and Training on who should receive a scholarship under this programme.

Table 27: Indigenous Staff Scholarships allocations, 2005

	\$ per person	No.	Total \$
Scholarships	21 400	5	107 000
Course Fees	10 600	5	53 000
TOTAL	32 000	5	160 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

2.4.3 Australian Postgraduate Awards

The Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) Programme provides financial support to Australian postgraduate students of exceptional research promise who undertake their higher degree by research at an Australian higher education provider. Masters students may receive an award for a maximum of two years and Doctoral students for three years with a possible extension of six months. Students in receipt of an APA receive an annual stipend and may qualify for other allowances.

APAs are allocated to higher education providers on the basis of a performance-based formula which takes into account higher degree research completions, publications and research income. In 2005, \$91 million was allocated to eligible higher education providers under this scheme to support a notional 1,550 new awards and to continue to support students who were awarded APAs in previous years (Table 28).

Table 28: Australian Postgraduate Awards allocations, 2005^(a)

Higher Education Provider	2005 APAs Allocations ^(b) \$	Higher Education Provider	2005 APAs Allocations ^(b) \$
New South Wales		Queensland	
Charles Sturt University	475 691	Bond University*	58 826
Macquarie University	1 650 796	Central Queensland University	403 248
Southern Cross University	657 140	Griffith University	2 100 153
The University of New England	1 243 875	James Cook University	1 351 358
The University of New South Wales	7 051 086	Queensland University of Technology	1 988 208
The University of Newcastle	2 087 383	The University of Queensland	8 389 542
The University of Sydney	8 692 092	University of Southern Queensland	352 955
University of Technology, Sydney	1 440 131	University of the Sunshine Coast*	58 826
University of Western Sydney	1 321 912	Western Australia	
University of Wollongong	1 795 967	Curtin University of Technology	2 068 505
Victoria		Edith Cowan University	871 029
Deakin University	1 534 443	Murdoch University	1 470 022
La Trobe University	2 256 405	The University of Notre Dame Australia*	58 826
Melbourne College of Divinity*	184 898	The University of Western Australia	4 654 136
Monash University	6 609 001	South Australia	
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	2 495 092	The Flinders University of South Australia	1 746 864
Swinburne University of Technology	887 982	The University of Adelaide	4 288 577
University of Ballarat	254 515	University of South Australia	1 590 555
The University of Melbourne	10 163 803		
Victoria University	773 156		

Higher Education Provider	2005 APAs Allocations ^(b) \$
Tasmania	
Australian Maritime College*	58 826
University of Tasmania	2 148 810
Northern Territory	
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education*	19 212
Charles Darwin University	342 276

Higher Education Provider	2005 APAs Allocations ^(b) \$
ACT	
The Australian National University	4 729 236
University of Canberra	619 339
Other	
Australian Catholic University	235 303
TOTAL	91 180 000

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

(a) Data underlying each scheme's allocation (except the Regional Protection Scheme) is sourced from the Higher Education Research Data Collection from DEST's University Statistics Unit.

(b) Columns may not sum due to rounding.

* Denotes a designated 'small' higher education provider. Until 2006, small higher education providers were eligible to receive additional RTS funds over and above the allocation that they would receive based on performance only.

42 higher education providers are eligible to receive APA Funds.

2.4.4 International Scholarships

Endeavour Programme

The Endeavour Programme is the department's international scholarships programme. In 2005-06 the Australian Government contributed \$22.6 million to the programme to enable students and scholars from around the world to undertake study or research in Australia and for Australians to go overseas.

Australian University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific Programme

The Australian University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific Programme (UMAP) provides funding to Australian higher education institutions to subsidise the cost of their establishing and monitoring of Australian students' participation in UMAP student exchanges with counterpart higher education institutions in the Asia Pacific region. The student exchanges include provision for tuition fee waiver and credit transfer arrangements between the institutions.

In the 2005 round of the Australian UMAP Programme, DEST provided \$1.4 million to 29 Australian higher education institutions to fund 110 projects involving institution-to-institution student exchanges. Under the programme, DEST provides subsidies to Australian higher education institutions to assist with the costs:

- of short staff visits to counterpart institutions in eligible countries in Asia and the Pacific to negotiate details of student exchanges with certain characteristics including tuition fee waiver and credit transfer; and
- to Australian students participating in these student exchanges.

The projects funded in the 2005 round include 30 staff visits to counterpart institutions and the participation of 340 Australian students from a wide range of disciplines. The country distribution of funding is provided at [Table 29](#).

Table 29: Australian University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific Programme allocations, 2005

Country	Subsidies for Australian students for overseas study	Subsidies for Australian staff to visit counterpart institutions
Canada	68	5
Chile	12	2
China, People's Republic of	18	3
Fiji	3	0
Hong Kong	8	0
Japan	43	5
Korea, The Republic of	7	0
Malaysia	14	1
Mexico	42	3
New Zealand	6	1
Peru	1	0
Singapore	6	0
Taiwan	3	0
Thailand	10	1
USA	99	9
TOTAL	340	30

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Endeavour Cheung Kong Scholarships

In 2004, the department entered into a \$2.25 million sponsorship agreement with the Cheung Kong Group, through Powercor Australia Limited (Australian subsidiary company). The department agreed to match Cheung Kong funding over a three-year period. As part of that agreement, two award programmes were developed: Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awards (Table 30); and the Endeavour Cheung Kong Student Exchange Programme (Table 31).

In the 2005 round of the Endeavour Cheung Kong Student Exchange Programme, \$550,000 was provided to 21 Australian higher education institutions to support 45 projects involving institution-to-institution student exchange programmes (Table 31). DEST provided funding totalling \$275,000. This funding was matched by the Cheung Kong Group.

The funded projects cover student exchanges between these 21 Australian higher education institutions and 34 counterpart institutions in Asia. Fifty out-going Australian undergraduate exchange students and 50 in-coming Asian undergraduate exchange students will be supported to participate in student exchanges of one or two semesters' duration involving tuition fee waiver and credit transfer.

In the 2005 round of the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awards, a total of 40 postgraduate awards were offered to Australian and international researchers. These awards enable high achieving scholars from Asia to undertake research in Australia and for Australians to do the same in Asia.

The country distribution of the supported students is provided at Table 30.

Table 30: Endeavour Cheung Kong Awards, 2005

Country	Fellowships for international scholars undertake research in Australia	Fellowships for Australian scholars to undertake research overseas
China, the people's Republic of (including Hong Kong SAR)	14	14
India	2	1
Indonesia*	0	1.33
Japan*	0	1.5
Korea, The Republic of	0	0.5
Singapore	1	0.67
Thailand	3	1.33
TOTAL	20	20

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

* Three award holders are undertaking research in multiple countries. Each country visited has been counted in these figures.

Table 31: Endeavour Cheung Kong Student Exchange Programme

Country	Subsidies for international students to study in Australia	Subsidies for Australian students for overseas study
China	15	15
Hong Kong	19	19
Japan	7	7
Korea, Republic of (South)	1	1
Malaysia	1	1
Singapore	3	3
Thailand	4	4
TOTAL	50	50

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Endeavour Research Fellowships

The Endeavour Research Fellowships provide financial support for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows from participating countries to undertake short-term research of four to six months, in any field of study, in Australia. The fellowships engage overseas higher education institutions, through collaborative and quality research. It is expected that the strong research links, academic networks and partnerships that develop will further Australian innovation. Researchers from Europe, Latin America and the Middle East were granted fellowships in the 2005 round. A country distribution of awards offered in 2005 is provided at [Table 32](#).

Table 32: Endeavour Australia Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships allocations, 2005

Country	Fellowships for international scholars undertake research in Australia
Austria	1
Brazil	8
Chile	3
Ireland	4
Italy	2
Mexico	1
Iraq	6
United Kingdom	1
TOTAL	26

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Endeavour Australia Postgraduate Study and/or Research

The Endeavour Postgraduate Awards provide financial support for postgraduate students from designated countries to undertake, in any field of study an Australian higher degree; or research in Australia towards a higher degree in their home country. Funding is provided for the first year of their study. Scholars from Asia and Europe were awarded scholarships in the 2005 round. A country distribution of awards offered in 2005 is provided at Table 33.

Table 33: Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship Scheme allocations, 2005

Country	Awards for international students to undertake study/research in Australia
China, People's Republic of (including Hong Kong SAR)	1
France	1
Germany	4
Indonesia	2
Ireland	2
Italy	4
Japan	1
Malaysia	1
Singapore	1
Sweden	1
Taiwan	2
Thailand	1
United Kingdom	2
Vietnam	1
TOTAL	24

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships

Practicing language teachers from government as well as non-government schools in Australia participate in a three-week intensive language and cultural in-country programme in six to seven countries each year. The main focus of the language study programme is to improve the language teacher's knowledge, skills and understanding of the languages and cultures about which they teach as well as to strengthen networking among language teachers nationally and in each State and Territory. In the 2005 round a total of 115 language teachers participated in the fellowships. A country distribution of awards offered in 2005 is provided at [Table 34](#).

Table 34: Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships allocations, 2005

Country	Fellowships participants
Chile	7
China	17
France	19
Germany	18
Greece	6
Italy	26
Japan	22
TOTAL	115

Source: DEST internal administrative data, 2005

Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship

The International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) have been re-badged as part of the new Endeavour Programme under which high-performing students from around the world will be able to study in Australia. The Endeavour Programme encompasses both new and existing scholarships, with an extra \$7.9 million committed over the next four years.

The Endeavour IPRS programme aims to attract students to areas of research strength in Australian higher education providers and to develop international research linkages. Higher education providers are required to give preference to students from the regions identified as priorities under the Endeavour Programme. These regions are Asia, Europe, North and South America and the Middle East. Masters students may receive an IPRS for two years and doctoral students for three years with possible extension for both of up to one year in certain circumstances for both masters and doctoral students at the discretion of the higher education provider. An IPRS covers the student's tuition fees and health insurance premiums.

Endeavour IPRS are allocated to higher education providers based on the provider's research performance in higher degree by research completions, publications and research income. In 2005, 330 scholarships were available to support international postgraduate research students. [Table 35](#) sets out Endeavour IPRS allocations and funding by higher education provider for 2005.

Table 35: Allocation of Endeavour IPRS and funding for 2005

State/Higher Education Provider	No.	\$
New South Wales		
Charles Sturt University	2	99 666
Macquarie University	6	331 938
Southern Cross University	3	141 897
University of New England	5	271 970
University of New South Wales	23	1 421 929
University of Newcastle	7	400 353
The University of Sydney	31	1 671 094
University of Technology, Sydney	5	265 635
University of Western Sydney	5	276 615
University of Wollongong	6	364 879
Victoria		
Deakin University	6	296 886
La Trobe University	8	455 676
Monash University	24	1 259 761
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	9	508 888
Swinburne University of Technology	3	165 969
The University of Melbourne	38	1 937 574
University of Ballarat	1	55 323
Victoria University of Technology	3	154 989
Melbourne College of Divinity	1	55 323
Queensland		
Central Queensland University	1	55 323
Griffith University	8	396 552
James Cook University	4	282 950
Queensland University of Technology	7	376 281
The University of Queensland	30	1 659 692
University of Southern Queensland	1	55 323
University of the Sunshine Coast	1	15 626
Bond University	1	55 323
Western Australia		
Curtin University of Technology	8	424 847
Edith Cowan University	3	165 969
Murdoch University	6	281 261
University of Notre Dame Australia	1	55 323
The University of Western Australia	16	891 926
South Australia		
Flinders University of South Australia	6	345 030
The University of Adelaide	15	823 511
University of South Australia	6	320 958
Tasmania		
Australian Maritime College	1	55 323
University of Tasmania	8	420 624

State/Higher Education Provider	No.	\$
Northern Territory		
Charles Darwin University	1	55 323
Australian Capital Territory		
The Australian National University	17	997 504
University of Canberra	2	110 646
Multi-state		
Australian Catholic University	1	55 323
TOTAL	330	18 037 006

Source: Formula-derived result based on the Selected Higher Education Student Statistics and Research Data Collections, various years (DEST)

Australian-American Fulbright Commission

The Fulbright Commission is a non-profit organisation in Australia, established through a treaty between the Australian and United States Governments in 1949. The Fulbright awards allow Australians and Americans to participate in educational and cultural exchange programs. DEST contributed around \$580,000 to the Fulbright Commission's core funding in 2005.

General Sir John Monash Postgraduate Student Awards

The General Sir John Monash Foundation was established in December 2001 with the purpose of raising funds for, and administering Australia's own prestigious postgraduate scholarships – the *General Sir John Monash Awards*. Awards are granted to outstanding Australians graduating from Australian universities to enable them to undertake postgraduate study abroad at the world's best universities, appropriate to their field of study.

2.5 Support for Students

2.5.1 Overview

Since 1989, Australian higher education students have contributed to the cost of their education. Since this time, the Australian Government has provided eligible students with an interest free, income contingent loan with repayments through the taxation system.

Data at 30 June 2005 indicates that since 1989, over 1.9 million students had been able to access higher education opportunities through Australian Government funded loans and around \$15.5 billion had been loaned to those students. Around 780,000 people had repaid their debt. The average repayment time was 7.1 years⁷.

⁷ Data in this paragraph has been provided by the Australian Taxation Office.

Table 36: Accumulated HELP debts 1989-90 to 2005-06^(a)

Year	Voluntary repayments by students	Repayments through tax system	Accumulated HELP debt as at 30 June
	\$m	\$m	\$m
1988-1989	1	9	216
1989-1990	2	28	673
1990-1991	6	49	1 190
1991-1992	12	57	1 749
1992-1993	11	72	2 321
1993-1994	19	133	2 932
1994-1995	16	169	3 354
1995-1996	32	218	3 958
1996-1997	58	262	4 504
1997-1998	67	472	4 922
1998-1999	72	497	5 526
1999-2000	80	532	6 229
2000-2001	97	586	7 162
2001-2002	134	612	8 104
2002-2003	137	638	9 164
2003-04	156	701	10 185
2004-05 ^(a)	193	666	11 371
2005-06 ^(b)	137	671	12 925

Source: Australian Taxation Office

(a) Before 2005, debts were incurred under the Higher Education Funding Act 1988 (HEFA). From 1 January 2005, debts are incurred under the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA) and are known as HELP debts. All previous HECS debts became HELP debts on 1 June 2006. Debts incurred under HEFA include Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), Postgraduate Education Loan Scheme (PELS), Bridging for Overseas Trained Professionals Loan Scheme (BOTPLS) and Open Learning Deferred Payment Scheme (OLDPS) debts. HELP debts incurred since 1 January 2005 include HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP debts.

(b) DEST estimates.

Commonwealth supported students

Commonwealth supported students pay a contribution towards the cost of their education, called a student contribution amount. The Australian Government pays a Commonwealth contribution to higher education providers for each Commonwealth supported place through the Commonwealth Grant Scheme.

In 2005, over 412,000 students (expressed in EFTSL) were in Commonwealth supported places. Of that number, almost 11,500 were students in postgraduate Commonwealth supported places (see Table 40).

Only domestic students are eligible for a Commonwealth supported place. It is the responsibility of higher education providers to allocate Commonwealth supported places but this must be done on merit.

Student contributions

In 2005, higher education providers were given the flexibility to set student contributions for Commonwealth supported students within a range from zero to a maximum set by the Australian Government. The maximum student contribution for the 'national priority' category of student contributions for units of study in nursing and education has been maintained at the 2004 HECS rates

(indexed). For all other units of study, providers have the flexibility to set a maximum student contribution up to 25% higher than the 2004 HECS rates (indexed).

Some students continuing a course of study they began prior to 2005 are regarded as pre-2005 students. Pre-2005 students have access to HECS-HELP assistance under the previous HECS arrangements. This includes a maximum student contribution set at the 2004 HECS rates (indexed). The arrangements for pre-2005 students cease at the end of 2008.

Table 37 sets out the student contribution bands and ranges for students commencing a new course from 2005 and the ranges for students who continued a course they commenced prior to 2005.

Table 37: Student contribution bands and ranges for 2005

Student contribution band	Pre-2005 HECS students who began their course: Students commencing		
	on or after 1 January 2005	on or after 1 January 1997	before 1 January 1997
Band 3 (law, dentistry, medicine, veterinary science)	\$0 – \$8 170	\$0 – \$6 535	\$0 - \$2 943
Band 2 (accounting, administration, economics, commerce, mathematics, statistics, computing, built environment, health, engineering, science, surveying, agriculture)	\$0 – \$6 979	\$0 – \$5 583	\$0 - \$2 943
Band 1 (humanities, behavioural science, social studies, foreign languages, visual and performing arts)	\$0 – \$4 899	\$0 – \$3 920	\$0 - \$2 943
National Priorities (education, nursing)	\$0 – \$3 920	\$0 – \$3 920	\$0 - \$2 943

Source: Higher Education Support Act 2003

Student Learning Entitlement

On 1 January 2005, all eligible students received a Student Learning Entitlement (SLE) giving them access to seven years of equivalent full-time study in a Commonwealth supported place. Additional SLE is also provided to eligible students enrolling in an undergraduate course that is longer than six years, an honours course, a graduate entry bachelor degree or a postgraduate course. Students also accrue lifelong SLE to encourage lifelong learning. Students must have sufficient SLE to cover the units of study in which they wish to enrol as a Commonwealth supported student.

Domestic fee-paying students

Higher education providers may charge tuition fees to domestic students who are not Commonwealth supported for their course, or who are undertaking units in a full-fee summer school. Providers determine their own fee levels for domestic fee-paying students, taking into account course costs and demand. For units of study in which Commonwealth supported students are enrolled, fee-paying students must be charged an amount equal to or more than the student contribution amount for Commonwealth supported students for that unit. A provider may offer a domestic student a fee-paying place in a course if it fills all of its allocated Commonwealth supported places in the relevant funding cluster.

Table 38 shows the number of domestic fee-paying places by course level for Table A and Table B providers.

Undergraduate fee-paying students

The vast majority of domestic undergraduate students at public universities undertaking an award course are Commonwealth supported (around 97%). Since 1989 universities have been able to charge domestic students fees for undergraduate courses, provided that the number of domestic students being charged tuition fees for a particular course did not exceed 25% of the total number of places available for domestic students in that course. From 1 January 2005, the maximum number of fee-paying places in a course was increased to 35%, to enable higher education providers to better respond to student demand in particular areas, and to provide additional educational opportunities and choices for students. Higher education providers were also able to offer fee-paying places in a course of study in medicine for the first time. In 2005, up to 10% of domestic places in a course of study in medicine could be fee-paying.

The limits on the number of domestic fee-paying places in an undergraduate course of study apply to providers listed on Table A of the HESA. It does not apply to providers listed on Table B of the Act or approved private providers.

In 2005, 25 Table A providers offered 9,773 domestic undergraduate fee-paying places. This is an increase of 34% from 2004. Three Table B providers offered 3,371 domestic undergraduate fee-paying places.

Postgraduate fee-paying students

Domestic postgraduate coursework students usually pay tuition fees. Most domestic postgraduate research students study in a place provided under the Research Training Scheme (RTS) and are exempt from the payment of tuition fees. Postgraduate research students who are not in an RTS place are charged tuition fees.

In 2005, 38 Table A providers offered 41,611 postgraduate fee-paying places for domestic students in research and coursework degrees. Three Table B providers offered 858 postgraduate fee-paying places for domestic students in research and coursework degrees.

Table 38: Domestic fee-paying student places by course level, 2004 and 2005

	Undergraduate places	Postgraduate Research places	Other Postgraduate Places	Enabling, non-award and cross institutional	Total EFTSL
2004	13 083	4 332	40 698	4 085	62 198
2005	13 143	1 773	40 694	2 737	58 347

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, various years (DEST)

Includes providers listed on Table A and Table B of the Higher Education Support Act 2003 only.

Excludes data on 2004 places for the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Christian Heritage College and Tabor College previously reported in Table 3.32 of the Higher Education Report 2004-2005.

Total may be different from sum of parts due to rounding.

Data on the total number of places offered by private providers is not available for 2005, as private providers were required to provide data only on students who took out a FEE-HELP loan.

2.5.2 Higher Education Loan Programme

The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) consists of HECS-HELP for eligible Commonwealth supported students, FEE-HELP for eligible domestic fee-paying students and OS-HELP for eligible Commonwealth supported students who wish to undertake some of their studies overseas.

HELP debtors are not required to make repayments of their HELP debt until their income exceeds the minimum threshold for compulsory repayment, which was \$36,184 in 2005-06 (Table 39). This repayment threshold is indexed annually in line with the movement in average weekly earnings. HELP debtors may also make voluntary repayments towards their HELP debts. Voluntary repayments of \$500 or more attract a 10% bonus.

Table 39: HELP 2005-06 income thresholds and repayment rates

For repayment income in the range:	Percentage rate to be applied to repayment income:
Below \$36 185	Nil
\$36 185 - \$40 306	4
\$40 307 - \$44 427	4.5
\$44 428 - \$46 762	5
\$46 763 - \$50 266	5.5
\$50 267 - \$54 439	6
\$54 440 - \$57 304	6.5
\$57 305 - \$63 062	7
\$63 063 - \$67 199	7.5
\$67 200 and above	8

Source: Higher Education Support Act 2003

In 2005, of students required to pay student contributions, approximately 77% (in EFTSL terms) deferred all or part of their student contribution through HECS-HELP. 21% paid their student contribution (with HECS-HELP discount) in full and up-front. The remaining 2% paid their student contribution upfront with no HECS-HELP assistance.

In terms of EFTSL, the number of students receiving HECS-HELP assistance decreased by around 1% to 401,742 between 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, approximately 43% of domestic fee-paying students (in EFTSL terms) at Table A and Table B providers deferred all or part of their tuition fees through FEE-HELP (Table 40 shows total FEE-HELP liable students and EFTSL at all providers and Open Universities Australia).

Table 40: Actual Student Load (EFTSL) for All Students by Liability Status, Full Year 2005

Commonwealth supported student ^(a)	Total Post-graduate	Bachelor	Other Under-graduate	Sub-total Other Under-graduate ^(b)	Total Under-graduate	Cross Institution Programmes	Enabling and non-award courses	Total	
								Other	Total
Student contribution liable									
HECS-HELP									
Pre-2005 HECS student - deferred all or part through HECS-HELP	2 300	213 671	1 098	1 525	215 196	681	7	0	218 184
Pre-2005 HECS student - paid full contribution up-front with HECS-HELP discount	1 746	58 296	344	569	58 865	170	2	0	60 782
2005 onwards student - deferred all or part through HECS-HELP	5 218	91 444	818	1 117	92 561	250	8	0	98 037
2005 onwards student - paid full contribution up-front with HECS-HELP discount	2 213	22 171	210	289	22 460	65	1	0	24 739
Sub Total	11 477	385 582	2 470	3 500	389 082	1 166	18	0	401 742
Paid student contribution up-front with no HECS-HELP assistance ^(c)									
Pre-2005 HECS student	78	1 737	7	12	1 749	3	0	0	1 830
2005 onwards student	460	3 811	13	18	3 830	5	0	0	4 296
Sub Total	538	5 548	20	30	5 579	8	0	0	6 126
Student contribution liable total	12 015	391 130	2 490	3 530	394 661	1 174	18	0	407 868
Student contribution exempt									
Pre-2005 merit based equity scholarship holder	0	52	0	0	52	0	0	0	52
Exemption scholarship holder	13	1 002	2	2	1 005	0	0	0	1 017
Enrolled in an enabling course	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 078	0	3 078
Undertaking WEI where learning and performance is not directed or supported	80	872	1	5	878	0	0	0	958
Domestic fee-paying student ^(d)									
Tuition fee liable									
FEE-HELP									
Pre-2005 PELS	9 953	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	9 977
Deferred all or part of award or enabling course tuition fee	11 461	5 404	765	772	6 176	59	55	0	17 750
Deferred all or part of employer reserved place tuition fee	3	1	4	459	459	0	0	0	463
Deferred all or part of OUA tuition fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 849	2 849

Commonwealth supported student ^(a)	Total Post-graduate	Bachelor	Other Under-graduate	Sub-total Other Under-graduate ^(b)	Total Under-graduate	Cross Institution Programmes	Enabling and non-award courses		Total
							Other	Total	
Deferred all or part of BOTP tuition fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	109	0	109
Paid tuition fee up-front with no FEE-HELP assistance									
Paid full award or enabling course tuition fee	20 796	8 408	223	234	8 642	356	126	0	29 920
Paid full employer reserved place tuition fee	922	1 293	230	464	1 758	0	70	0	2 750
Paid full OUA tuition fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 596	1 596
Paid full BOTP tuition fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Tuition fee exempt									
Exemption scholarship holder	2 813	19	0	0	19	0	5	0	2 837
Undertaking WEI where learning and performance is not directed or supported	18	18	0	0	18	0	0	0	36
Non-award student	3	3	4	4	7	1	2 389	0	2 398
RTS student	22 307	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	22 310
Overseas fee-paying student	59 373	104 656	1 619	1 645	106 302	597	5 945	224	172 442
AMC special course	0	0	347	347	347	0	0	0	347

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics (DEST)

(a) Work experience in industry load is excluded for some funding purposes

(b) Includes Other Undergraduate and Associate Degree

(c) Students ineligible for a HECS-HELP loan required to pay their student contribution up-front with no discount.

(d) Includes Commonwealth Supported Students who may be undertaking a fee-paying unit (for example, during summer school)

Note: Totals in this table include small numbers of EFTSL that have been misreported by higher education providers (for example, non award courses under the student contribution liable category). DEST is working with the providers to identify and re-classify these records.

HECS-HELP

HECS-HELP assistance helps eligible Commonwealth supported students pay their student contribution amount. HECS-HELP provides an interest free, income contingent loan from the Australian Government or a 20% discount if a student pays all, or at least \$500, of their student contribution up-front.

Table 41 provides a breakdown of student contribution liabilities for Commonwealth supported students and the type of HECS-HELP assistance accessed by students.

Table 41: Student contribution (HECS) liabilities and assistance accessed

Year	Total students' liabilities \$m	Deferred to a HECS/ HECS-HELP loan \$m	Up-front payments made to institutions \$m	Up-front discount ^(a) \$m
1989	505	411	80	14
1990	578	475	87	15
1991	682	548	114	20
1992	785	633	129	23
1993	816	639	133	44
1994	869	664	156	48
1995	885	668	164	53
1996	957	719	179	58
1997	1 191	895	220	76
1998	1 374	1 049	246	79
1999	1 534	1 188	263	83
2000	1 639	1 275	277	87
2001	1 753	1 367	295	91
2002	1 864	1 450	317	98
2003	1 907	1 470	334	103
2004	1 919	1 457	350	112
2005 ^(a)	2 121	1 625	399	96

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, various years (DEST)

(a) DEST estimates

(b) The up-front discount represents the amount paid by the Australian Government to higher education providers on behalf of students paying up-front. The up-front discount was reduced in 2005 from 25% to 20%

FEE-HELP

Prior to 2005, there were three different loan schemes for domestic fee-paying students to cover tuition fees. Postgraduate coursework students could access the Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme (PELS), full-time undergraduate students at (formerly) Open Learning Australia (now called Open Universities Australia) could access the Open Learning Deferred Payment Scheme (OLDPS), and overseas-trained professionals undertaking study to meet the requirements for entry into professional occupations in Australia could access the Bridging for Overseas-Trained Professionals Loan Scheme (BOTPLS).

From 1 January 2005, under the *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* reforms to higher education, the Australian Government introduced a new loan programme called FEE-HELP. FEE-HELP significantly expanded the availability of Australian Government loans to higher education students. FEE-HELP replaced the PELS, OLDPS and BOTPLS schemes. It also enabled domestic undergraduate fee-paying students and students at approved private providers to take out loans for their tuition fees for the first time.

Under FEE-HELP, eligible undergraduate and postgraduate fee-paying students at approved higher education providers are able to obtain a loan for their tuition fees, up to a maximum limit of \$50,000 (indexed annually). From 1 January 2007, the general FEE-HELP limit will increase to \$80,000 and \$100,000 for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses.

There is a loan fee of 20% for FEE-HELP loans for undergraduate courses of study. The FEE-HELP limit does not include the loan fee. There is no loan fee for FEE-HELP loans for postgraduate courses, bridging studies for overseas-trained professionals, enabling courses or units of study undertaken directly with Open Universities Australia.

FEE-HELP is an income contingent loan. Students repay their loan through the taxation system when their income reaches the minimum threshold for compulsory repayments. The deferred repayment arrangements are the same as those that were available under PELS, OLDPS and BOTPLS. However, the minimum threshold was increased from \$25,348 in 2003-04 to \$35,001 in 2004-05 and this was indexed to \$36,185 in 2005-06.

Table 42 shows FEE-HELP liability data for 2005 by level of course for Table A, Table B and private higher education providers. For 2005, based on data submitted by providers (subject to revisions), the Australian Government's FEE-HELP loan payments total \$344.3 million to providers on behalf of students who had elected to defer all or part of their tuition fees. This benefited about 67,000 students (31,149 equivalent full time students, which includes 2,849 equivalent full-time students undertaking units at Open Universities Australia). The average FEE-HELP loan amount in 2005 was \$11,053 per equivalent full-time student.

Table 42: FEE-HELP liability by course level, 2005

	FEE-HELP Students ^(a)	FEE-HELP Equivalent Full-Time Student Load
Undergraduate	9 720	6 652
Postgraduate	49 583	21 485
Enabling	83	55
Bridging Training for Overseas-Trained Professionals	398	109
Open Universities Australia Units	8 172	2 849
TOTAL	67 956	31 149

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics (DEST)

Total may be different to sum of parts due to rounding

(a) Students enrolled in a cross-institutional course are counted once for each of the providers at which they are enrolled

OS-HELP

The OS-HELP loan scheme was introduced in 2005 and provides loans to eligible Commonwealth supported students who wish to undertake some of their course of study overseas. The loan assists students with travel, accommodation and other overseas expenses. OS-HELP is intended to encourage more Australian students to undertake part of their study overseas and to increase the accessibility of overseas study to students who may not otherwise have sufficient financial means to take up such opportunities. In 2005, eligible students who are selected by their higher education provider to receive a loan are able to borrow up to \$5,000 per six month study period for one or two study periods. OS-HELP loans attract a 20% loan fee.

Table 43 shows the number and amount of loans distributed to eligible students in 2005.

Table 43: OS-HELP loan allocation by higher education provider, 2005

Higher education provider	2005 actual OS-HELP loans	2005 actual \$
New South Wales		
Avondale College	0	0
Charles Sturt University	4	20,000
Macquarie University	25	125,000
Southern Cross University	19	93,000
The University of Sydney	9	42,000
University of Newcastle	17	85,000
University of New England	16	80,000
University of New South Wales	13	58,500
University of Technology, Sydney	47	235,000
University of Western Sydney	4	20,000
University of Wollongong	27	135,000
Victoria		
Deakin University	67	320,000
La Trobe University	26	123,000
Monash University	37	177,000
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	63	305,000
Swinburne University of Technology	6	30,000
The University of Melbourne	52	251,000
University of Ballarat	2	10,000
Victoria University	3	15,000
Queensland		
Christian Heritage College ^(a)	0	0
Central Queensland University	0	0
Griffith University	18	84,000
James Cook University	13	65,000
Queensland University of Technology	30	150,000
The University of Queensland	100	470,000
University of Southern Queensland	1	5,000
University of the Sunshine Coast	19	95,000
Western Australia		
Curtin University of Technology	10	49,000
Edith Cowan University	7	35,000
Murdoch University	0	0
The University of Notre Dame Australia	1	5,000
The University of Western Australia	1	5,000
South Australia		
Tabor College ^(a)	0	0
The Flinders University of South Australia	13	65,000
The University of Adelaide	44	217,000
University of South Australia	12	57,000
Tasmania		
Australian Maritime College	0	0
University of Tasmania	22	96 230

Higher education provider	2005 actual OS-HELP loans	2005 actual \$
Northern Territory		
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education ^(a)	0	0
Charles Darwin University ^(a)	0	0
Australian Capital Territory		
The Australian National University	26	128 800
University of Canberra	10	48 500
Multi-state		
Australian Catholic University	2	10 000
TOTAL	766	3 710 030

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics (DEST)

(a) These higher education providers did not request an allocation of OS-HELP loans.

At September 2006 - due to the timing of the reconciliation arrangements final totals in this table may be subject to some variation.

HELP debts⁸

As at 30 June 2005, there were around 1.1 million persons with a HELP debt, totalling around \$11 billion with the average debt being around \$9,800.

Table 44 shows the breakdown of the outstanding HELP debt by size and Table 45 shows the breakdown of the outstanding HELP debt by State and Territory⁹.

Table 44: Breakdown of outstanding HELP debt as at 30 June 2005

Range of loan balances	Number of persons
\$1 000 and under	570 006
\$1 000.01 to \$2 000	73 944
\$2 000.01 to \$4 000	149 266
\$4 000.01 to \$6 000	148 876
\$6 000.01 to \$8 000	106 690
\$8 000.01 to \$10 000	105 550
\$10 000.01 to \$12 000	110 621
\$12 000.01 to \$14 000	84 865
\$14 000.01 to \$16 000	76 927
\$16 000.01 to \$18 000	63 321
\$18 000.01 to \$20 000	39 521
\$20 000.01 to \$30 000	88 985
\$30 000.01 to \$40 000	14 798
\$40 000.01 to \$50 000	2 195
Over \$50 000	395

Source: Australian Taxation Office

Due to a change in reporting requirements, this information does not include debts incurred in the first half of 2005.

This amount excludes compulsory repayments relating to the 2004-05 income year.

⁸ On 1 June 2006, all Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) debts (including debts incurred under HECS, the Postgraduate Education Loan Scheme (PELS), the Bridging for Overseas Trained Professionals Loan Scheme (BOTPLS), and the Open Learning Deferred Payment Scheme (OLDPS)) became, along with any new HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP debts, accumulated HELP debts.

⁹ Data provided by the Australian Taxation Office.

Table 45: State and Territory breakdown of outstanding HELP debt as at 30 June 2005

State/Territory	HELP debt amount	Persons with a debt
Australia Capital Territory	\$367 917 109	25 113
New South Wales	\$2 832 872 689	284 061
Northern Territory	\$72 198 733	8 796
Queensland	\$1 913 111 471	194 034
South Australia	\$726 151 707	71 525
Tasmania	\$214 588 426	21 677
Victoria	\$2 930 698 644	264 430
Western Australia	\$939 898 809	94 476
Other	\$1 329 551 061	157 710
Total	\$11 326 988 649	1 121 822

Source: Australian Taxation Office

Due to a change in reporting requirement, this information does not include debts incurred in the first half of 2005.

Data does not include unmatched records.

This data is based on the residential address postcode of each client. If the residential address postcode is blank or invalid, then the postal address postcode is used.

'Other' clients include those overseas or where the postal address postcode is invalid or incomplete.

Address data is based on the latest information provided to the Australian Tax Office by the taxpayer or their agent and may no longer be current and may differ from where a client once resided.

The amount of outstanding debt, repayments and debt not expected to be repaid for each financial year 1988-89 to 2005-06 are set out below. Figures for 2005-06 are DEST estimates.

Table 46: Accumulated HECS/HELP debts and debt expected not to be repaid 1989-90 to 2005-06

Year	Voluntary repayments by students \$m	Repayments through tax system \$m	Accumulated HECS debt \$m	Debt expected not to be repaid \$m	Proportion of total HECS debt
1988-89	1	9	216	N/A	N/A
1989-1990	2	28	673	N/A	N/A
1990-1991	6	49	1 190	N/A	N/A
1991-1992	12	57	1 749	N/A	N/A
1992-1993	11	72	2 321	386	16.6%
1993-1994	19	133	2 932	438	14.9%
1994-1995	16	169	3 354	541	16.1%
1995-1996	32	218	3 958	687	17.4%
1996-1997	58	262	4 504	607	13.5%
1997-1998	67	472	4 922	700	14.2%
1998-1999	72	497	5 526	953	17.2%
1999-2000	80	532	6 229	1 124	18.0%
2000-2001	97	586	7 162	1 397	19.5%
2001-2002	134	612	8 104	1 723	21.3%
2002-2003	137	638	9 164	2 018	22.2%
2003-2004	156	701	10 185	2 055	20.2%
2004-2005	193	666	11 371	2 166	19.0%
2005-2006*	137	671	12 925	2 501	19.3%

Source: Australian Taxation Office

*The total accumulated HECS debt includes the compulsory repayments made in relation to that income year.

* DEST estimates.

2.5.3 Going to Uni website and Course Information System

The Going to Uni website (www.goingtouni.gov.au) was launched in November 2004 and was developed as part of the *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* reforms. The site provides a range of material about undertaking higher education study in Australia and includes links to the Course Finder System and *myUniAssist*.

The Course Finder System (www.goingtouni.gov.au/CourseFinder.htm) provides, for the first time, nationally comparable information about courses, cut-off scores, indicative costs, eligibility requirements and more, for all higher education providers who receive Commonwealth assistance. The site was developed in close consultation with the higher education sector and further enhancements will progressively be implemented through 2006. Since the site's launch, over half a million visitors have made use of this information to help inform themselves about higher education choices.

From 2005, students receiving Australian Government assistance, such as a Student Learning Entitlement, assistance under the Higher Education Loan Programme or a Commonwealth Learning Scholarship are allocated a unique number, called the Commonwealth Higher Education Student Support Number (CHESSN). Using this number, a password and other details, students can now access their entitlement usage through *myUniAssist* (<https://www.goingtouni.gov.au/myuniassist/forms/logon.aspx>). To help manage these new entitlements, higher education providers are sent an alert when students approach their entitlement limits. To the end of 2005 over 955,000 CHESSNs had been allocated, with the millionth CHESSN being allocated in March 2006.

