

Higher Education

Report for the 2004 to 2006 Triennium

The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP
Minister for Education,
Science and Training

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Introduction

The *Higher Education Report for the 2004 to 2006 Triennium* is part of a series produced by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) since 1988. It provides:

- an overview of the higher education sector in 2003, including the higher education reform package, new Australian Government policies and recent sector developments;
- a review of the performance of higher education institutions in delivering student places and other Australian Government-funded outcomes in 2003; and
- information on funding allocations to assist universities with their forward planning.

This report provides the triennium projections and allocations for the period 2004 to 2006.

Following from the 2002 Review of Higher Education, the Australian Government announced a package of new higher education policies, to be implemented between 2004 and 2008. Legislation to give effect to the reform package was passed by Parliament on 5 December 2003. The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) will alter the way funding occurs from 2004.

2005 represents the first year in which the majority of the Government's higher education reforms will be introduced. Projections and allocations for 2004 are set out in the various tables and figures throughout this report, whilst the expected Australian Government expenditure on higher education programmes administered through the Education, Science and Training portfolio under HESA for 2005 and 2006 is set out in Table C1 at Appendix C. The body of the report does include the new allocations for 2006 from the Capital Development Pool announced in December 2003 as well as forecast estimates on HECS liabilities, payments and accumulated debts to 2005–06.

The introduction of HESA has meant that predictions of university's target loads and operating grants in previous reports have been affected and some tables and figures will become obsolete between 2004 and 2008. Text boxes throughout the report highlight changes that will occur between 2004 and 2008 as a result of the reform package.

This report is current as at 5 March 2004.