



Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee

the council of Australia's university presidents

(ACN 008 502 930 - ABN 53 008 502 930)

AVCC Funding Tables Explanatory Note

This set of six funding tables provides time series information on Commonwealth funding and student contributions (formerly HECS) available to universities and other higher education providers. The data is provided in two ways:

- actual year price data shows the price level of individual years up to 2005 (with 2005 price from 2006 onwards); and
- 2005 constant price data for all years using the ABS' Labour Price Index for Education (LPI(E)) (75%) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (25%), allowing analysis of annual changes.

The six funding tables are:

Table 1: Summary - Commonwealth Resources and Student Contributions available to Higher Education Institutions (actual and constant prices) 2000-2008;

Table 2: Commonwealth Resources and Student Contributions available to Higher Education Institutions 2000-2008 (actual year prices up to 2005, then 2005 prices);

Table 3: Commonwealth Resources and Student Contributions available to Higher Education Institutions 2000-2008 (2005 constant prices); and

Table 4: Student Contributions/HECS Liabilities (including Up-front receipts, Tax system payments and Voluntary payments), 1989-2008

Table 5: Commonwealth Resources and HECS by Type of Grant (actual year price), 1989-2000

Table 6: Base Operating Grant (actual year price) per Planned and Actual EFTSL, 1989-2000

Data Sources

The funding information and student contribution data is from DEST's Higher Education Triennium Reports and Finance Statistics Publication respectively. Specific tables that were made available to the AVCC by DEST were also used to supplement the funding details of the AVCC tables. More information is provided below under the heading of "Student Contribution".

The Tables

Table 1 is a summary table setting out a comparison of actual year and constant price data for the main elements of Commonwealth funding and student contributions and the corresponding funding per Commonwealth Support student load (EFTSL) from 2000 to 2008. The data is presented to provide the best fit with the funding arrangements from 2005.

Table 2 provides detailed Commonwealth funding in actual year prices grouped into:

- Core Commonwealth funding (primarily Commonwealth Grants Scheme (CGS) and the CGS “equivalent” – Base operating Grants);
- Student contribution;
- Sum of core funding and student contribution;
- Program funding;
- Research funding;
- Student Support funding; and
- non-university Program funding.

The funding items have been presented to match funding arrangements from 2005. In addition, funding per planned Commonwealth Support EFTSL and actual Commonwealth Support EFTSL are provided for core funding per place, student contribution per place, and the sum of core funding and student contribution per place.

Commonwealth Support places, both planned and actual funded load, exclude those funded under Research Training Scheme.

Table 3 provides constant price funding in 2005 values (adjusted by LPI(E)) for the data in Table 2.

Table 4 sets out the data on student contributions/ HECS liabilities, HECS receipts (by category of repayments by students) and accumulated HECS debt in actual year price. The student contribution data is used in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 5 provides historical funding data for 1989 to 2000 under the previous base operating grant funding arrangements.

Table 6 presents base operating grants per planned and actual Commonwealth funded student load from 1989 to 2000.

Core Funding (including the former Base Operating Grant)

Core funding provides for the principle income for teaching and learning and supports broadly all university functions. It allows universities the most autonomy and flexibility in their use of Commonwealth funding.

Core funding from 2005 includes:

- Commonwealth Grants Scheme (CGS);
- Regional loading;
- Enabling load;
- Workplace Reform Programme;
- National Institutes; and
- Over enrolment.

For years prior to 2005, the core funding is essentially the Base Operating Grant which includes the Workplace Reform Programme and funding for over-enrolment. It excludes the following grants:

- Australia Educational International,
- Restructure and Rationalisation (Budget 97 variation),
- Advance Engineering Centres,

- National Priority Fund,
- Superannuation,
- Teaching Hospitals,
- Higher Education Equity,
- Community Language,
- Special Assistance for Students,
- Student Residences Subsidy,
- Drug and Alcohol Education,
- Institute of Advance Studies; and
- The Commonwealth Industry Places Scheme.

The capital-roll-in component, formerly provided by DEST as a separate funding item from others, has been incorporated as part of CGS funding from 2005. For consistent comparison capital-roll-in has been integrated with the base operating grant component in Tables 1 and 2 for 2000 to 2004.

Student Contribution/HECS liabilities and HECS receipts

Student contributions are the amount that Commonwealth Support students are required to contribute to the cost of their courses, known as HECS through to 2004. Data to 2003 is drawn from DEST's *Finance Statistics*. The 2004 calendar year estimated HECS liabilities are sourced from actual payments.

The student contribution from 2005 onwards is an estimate only based on an increase by 2008 of 25% of the 2004 HECS liabilities, phased in for commencing students from 2005.

Program funding

Program funding covers specific non research funding programs:

- Transitional Fund
- Indigenous Support Funding
- Higher Education Equity
- Students with Disabilities Programme
- Superannuation Grants
- Capital Development Program
- Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund
- Indigenous Staff Scholarships

Research funding

Research funding refers to the Commonwealth funding that support research and research training programs and includes:

- Research Training Scheme
- Institutional Grants Scheme
- Research Infrastructure Block Grants
- Systemic Research Infrastructure
- National Collaboration Research Infrastructure
- Regional Protection Scheme

- ARC Grants
- NHMRC Grants.

The RTS component for 2000, reported by DEST as part of the base operating grant in 2000, is estimates only due to the fact that RTS was established in 2001. The Institutional Grants Scheme introduced in 2001 comprises the previous Research Quantum and Small Grants.

Student Support funding

Student Support funding refers to Commonwealth funding that is primarily for student support:

- HECS-HELP (loan amount)
- FEE-HELP (loan amount)
- OS-HELP (loan amount)
- Australian Postgraduate Awards
- International P/G Research Scholarships (OPRS)
- Education Cost Scholarships
- Accommodation Scholarships

No data is yet available for the first three elements.

Non-university Program funding

Non-university Program funding refers to Commonwealth funding that is not directly provided to universities:

- National Institute for Teaching & Learning
- Aust University Teaching Awards
- Quality Fund (AUQA, GSA, GDS/CEQ)
- Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council

Planned Student Load (EFTSL)

Planned student load (Commonwealth Support students only) is the target funded student load published in the Higher Education Triennium Reports. Funding per planned funded place is calculated for core funding, student contribution and the sum of core funding and student contribution respectively.

Actual Student Load (EFTSL)

Actual student load is the actual number of full-time equivalent Commonwealth Support students enrolled at universities, as tabled in the DEST's Higher Education Triennium Reports. Funding per actual place is calculated in the same way as the planned \$ per funded EFTSL.

Spreadsheet Access

A copy of the Microsoft Excel workbook containing these tables can be obtained by accessing the AVCC website:

<http://www.avcc.edu.au/content.asp?page=/publications/stats/fexp.htm>

Further information

For further enquiries, please contact Conor King (Director - Policy and Analysis) on (02) 6285 8208 or by email to c.king@avcc.edu.au.