



Australian Government

Funding Agreement

between the

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

as represented by the

Minister for Education

and

Eastern College Australia Inc

regarding funding

**under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* in respect of the
2021, 2022 and 2023 grant years**

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Parties and Recitals

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the date on which it is executed by the Commonwealth of Australia

BETWEEN

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA represented by the Minister for Education ('the Commonwealth')
[ABN 12 862 898 150]

AND

Eastern College Australia, 5 Burwood Highway WANTIRNA VIC 3152 ('Provider')
[ABN 61 551 855 405]

RECITALS

- A. The Provider meets the requirements of paragraph 30-1(1)(b) of HESA.
- B. This funding agreement meets the requirements under subsection 30-25(1) of HESA in respect of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 grant years.
- C. Entering into this agreement is a requirement under subparagraph 30-1(1)(b)(iii) of HESA for a Commonwealth Grant to be payable to the Provider under Part 2-2 of HESA.
- D. Subject to subsections 30-25(2A) and 30-25(2B) of HESA, this funding agreement specifies conditions to which the Commonwealth Grant is subject that are additional to the conditions that apply to the Commonwealth Grant under Division 36 of HESA.
- E. Under section 36-65 of HESA, the Provider must comply with this funding agreement.

NOW IT IS AGREED as follows:

PART A: Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding

Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding amount and payment arrangements

1. The Commonwealth will pay to the Provider the CGS funding amount for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Grant Years, calculated in accordance with Division 33 of HESA.
2. The Commonwealth will notify the Provider, before the start of each Grant Year covered by this agreement, about the CGS advances that will be paid to the Provider in respect of amounts expected to become payable for the relevant Grant Years under subsection 164-10(1) of HESA.
3. Amounts payable as CGS advances may be adjusted throughout the relevant Grant Year based on information provided to the Commonwealth by the Provider.
4. CGS advances made in respect of a Grant Year will be reconciled with CGS funding payable to the Provider for the relevant year. This reconciliation will occur in the year following the Grant Year when actual student enrolment data for the Grant Year is finalised and provided to the Commonwealth. If the amount of an advance paid to the Provider exceeds the amount that becomes payable to the Provider, the Commonwealth will seek recovery of the overpaid amount from the Provider under subsection 164-10(1A) of HESA.
5. To ensure the Provider is able to keep operating and employing staff in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commonwealth has created the Higher Education Continuity Guarantee (HECG) as a program under the *Higher Education Support (Other Grants) Guidelines 2022*. The Commonwealth will provide grants to eligible providers under the HECG for the Grant Years 2021, 2022 and 2023. The HECG has colloquially been referred to as the 'CGS funding guarantee' for the relevant Grant Years.

Estimates of Commonwealth supported places

6. The Provider must provide accurate and timely estimates of Commonwealth supported places, including the number of grandfathered students and non-grandfathered students expected to study in Commonwealth supported places, for the current year and future years, as required by the Commonwealth.

Provision of other data

7. The Provider must provide data relating to revised transparency arrangements as requested, including in relation to admissions processes and the cost of teaching and scholarship. This includes providing the data in the form and at the times required by the Commonwealth to support the national admissions platform.

PART B: Allocation of places

Maximum basic grant amount

8. The maximum basic grant amounts specified for the purposes of subsection 30-27(6) of HESA, for the Grant Years covered by this agreement, are set out in [Table 1a](#) of Appendix 1. Appendix 1 also contains additional conditions in relation to the maximum basic grant amount with which the Provider must comply.

Allocation of Commonwealth supported places

9. The total number of Commonwealth supported places allocated to the Provider under paragraph 30-10(1)(b), for grandfathered and non-grandfathered students in each funding cluster for the grant years covered by this agreement, are set out in [Table 2a](#), [Table 2b](#) and [Table 2c](#) of Appendix 2.
10. Any places allocated at the postgraduate level are for non-research courses of study and exclude any course which is subject to Ministerial determination under paragraph 36-15(2)(b) of HESA.

11. The amount of funding advanced to the Provider as an amount expected to become payable under HESA for the Grant Years covered by this agreement will initially be calculated on the basis of the Provider’s MBGA specified in Appendix 1. If the Provider is unable to deliver the places detailed in Table 2a, Table 2b or Table 2c of Appendix 2 it must notify the Commonwealth as soon as practicable.
12. The Provider must not transfer any allocation of Commonwealth supported places between undergraduate and postgraduate courses of study.
13. The Provider may be audited to check whether actual enrolments in Commonwealth supported places align with Table 2a, Table 2b or Table 2c of Appendix 2.

PART C: Other conditions and requirements

Clinical placements and practicums

14. For a course that is accredited under section 49 of the National Law, the Provider must ensure that each student enrolled in the course has access to clinical placements in accordance with the approved accreditation standard for the profession.
15. For a course that provides a pathway to professional certification or registration, where that certification or registration requires the completion of a clinical or practicum placement (for example in initial teacher education, engineering or social work) the Provider must ensure that each student enrolled in that course has access to clinical placements or practicums in accordance with the relevant professional accreditation standards.

Equity Places

16. Equity Places are non-ongoing and funding is expected to terminate in 2028.
17. Funding for Equity Places is to be used in 2023 for students commencing in the 2023 grant year.
18. There is a clear and unambiguous expectation that courses will be delivered as closely as possible in line with indicative funding parameters and that all Equity Places will be filled by people from educational disadvantaged groups (including students from low SES backgrounds, students from inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas, students who are first in family to study at university, First Nations students, and students with a disability).
19. The Provider must comply with all reporting requirements for Equity Places as communicated by Department.

New campuses and campus closures

20. The Provider must use the Commonwealth supported places it is allocated under this agreement to deliver courses of study at the campuses or educational facilities listed in Table 1 and Table 2 below.
21. The Provider must obtain the Commonwealth’s prior written approval if the Provider proposes to enrol Commonwealth supported students in a course of study that is, or is to be undertaken, primarily at an educational facility, other than one of the Provider’s campuses listed below in Table 1 or approved educational facilities listed below in Table 2.
22. Similarly, if the Provider proposes to close a campus or approved educational facility where Commonwealth supported students are enrolled, the Provider must obtain the Commonwealth’s prior written approval.

Table 1: Provider’s campuses

Name of campus	
Wantirna	N/A

Table 2: Approved educational facility

Name of educational facility
N/A

Closures of courses

23. Before closing any of the following types of undergraduate and postgraduate courses of study in which Commonwealth supported students have been enrolled for two or more years (including a major within a course of study), the Provider must consult the Commonwealth and obtain the Commonwealth's approval for the closure of the course:
- 23.1. courses that prepare students for entry to any occupation that is experiencing a Skills Shortage;
 - 23.2. courses the closure of which would be likely to create a Skills Shortage in an occupation because the Provider is the sole or dominant provider of the national skill base for that occupation;
 - 23.3. specialised courses directed at the regional economy, the closure of which is likely, in the Commonwealth's opinion, to create serious detriment to the skills base of a regional economy;
 - 23.4. courses in areas of priority under the Job-ready Graduates package, for example in science, engineering, computing, allied health, education and languages; and
 - 23.5. courses listed in Table 3a(ii) of Appendix 2 in which students are enrolled in Commonwealth supported places.
24. In making a decision to approve a course closure under clause 19, the Commonwealth will:
- 24.1. seek to reach a mutually agreeable arrangement with the Provider regarding the course closure;
 - 24.2. have regard to student demand for the course, the financial viability of the course, the justification provided for a proposed course closure by the Provider and other relevant factors;
 - 24.3. assist the Provider to explore options to retain the course, including through cooperation with another provider or the movement of Commonwealth supported places to another provider (where applicable); and
 - 24.4. not unreasonably withhold approval for a course closure so as to place an unreasonable financial burden on the Provider or place the Provider in a financially unviable position in regard to the Provider's overall financial status.

Applicable law and jurisdiction

25. The laws of the Australian Capital Territory apply to the interpretation of this agreement.
26. The parties agree to submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Australian Capital Territory and any courts which have jurisdiction to hear appeals from any of these courts in respect to any dispute under this agreement.

Entire agreement, variation and severance

27. This agreement, and the HESA, record the entire agreement between the parties in relation to its subject matter. Any previous agreement covering the relevant Grant Years is terminated and replaced by this agreement on the date this agreement is made.
28. Except for action the Commonwealth is expressly authorised or required to take elsewhere in this agreement or HESA, no variation of this agreement is binding unless it is agreed in writing and signed by the parties.
29. If a court or tribunal says any provision of this agreement has no effect or interprets a provision to reduce an obligation or right, this does not invalidate, or restrict the operation of, any other provision.

Notices

30. A party giving notice under this agreement must do so in writing or by Electronic Communication:

- 30.1. if given by the Provider, marked for the attention of the First Assistant Secretary of the Higher Education Division of the Department of Education or other person as notified in writing by the Commonwealth to the Provider; or
- 30.2. if given by the Commonwealth, marked for the attention of the Executive Principal or other person as notified in writing by the Provider to the Commonwealth;

and must be hand delivered or sent by pre-paid post or Electronic Communication to the address specified in this clause.

The address for notices to the Commonwealth is:

First Assistant Secretary
Higher Education Division
Department of Education
50 Marcus Clarke Street
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: cgs@education.gov.au

The address for notices to the Provider is:

5 Burwood Highway
WANTIRNA VIC 3152
tmeyers@eastern.edu.au

31. A notice given under clause 26 is taken to be received:
 - 31.1. if hand delivered, on delivery;
 - 31.2. if sent by pre-paid post, 6 business days after the date of posting; or
 - 31.3. if sent by Electronic Communication, at the time that would be the time of receipt under section 14A of the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*.

Interpretation

32. In this agreement including Attachment A and appendices, unless the contrary intention appears:

'ABN' has the same meaning as in section 41 of the *A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act 1999*;

'CGS' means Commonwealth Grant Scheme;

'Commonwealth Grant' is the grant payable to the Provider under Part 2-2 (Commonwealth Grant Scheme) of HESA;

'course of study' has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

'EFTSL' has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

'Equity Places' refers to funding allocated to the provider for the purpose of increasing the number of persons from under-represented backgrounds undertaking courses of study in the following areas of study: Education, Nursing, Engineering, Computing, Commerce, and Society and Culture;

'Electronic Communication' has the same meaning as in subsection 5(1) of the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*;

'funding clusters' has the same meaning as set out in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

'Grant Year' has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

'HESA' means the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*;

'maximum basic grant amount' or 'MBGA' has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

‘National Law’ means (a) for a state or territory other than Western Australia – the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as set out in the Schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (Qld)* as it applies (with or without modification) as a law of the State or Territory; and (b) for Western Australia – the legislation enacted by the *Health Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010* that corresponds to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law;

‘number of Commonwealth supported places’ has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

‘postgraduate course of study’ has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA;

‘undergraduate course of study’ has the same meaning as in subclause 1(1) of Schedule 1 of HESA.

33. In this agreement, unless the contrary intention appears:

- 33.1. words in the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- 33.2. clause headings or words in bold format are inserted for convenience only, and have no effect in limiting or extending the language of provisions;
- 33.3. all references to dollars are to Australian dollars;
- 33.4. unless stated otherwise, a reference to legislation is to legislation of the Commonwealth, as amended from time to time;
- 33.5. an uncertainty or ambiguity in the meaning of a provision of this agreement will not be interpreted against a party just because that party prepared that provision;
- 33.6. where a word or phrase is given a defined meaning, any other part of speech or grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning; and
- 33.7. where a word or phrase is not specifically defined in this agreement and the word or phrase occurs in the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, the word or phrase will have the same meaning as in that Act.

SIGNED for and on behalf of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

by Damian Coburn, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Division of the Department of Education as delegate of the Minister for Education.

Signed by

Damian Coburn
Acting First Assistant Secretary – Higher Education

Date: 20 December 2022

In the presence of:

Signed by

Craig Nightingale

Position of witness

Acting Director – CGS Policy

SIGNED for and on behalf of

Eastern College Australia

Signed by

Timothy Meyers

Position

Executive Principal

In the presence of:

Signed by

Cheryl Osment

Position or profession of witness

General Manager

Table 1a. MBGA for 2021-23 grant years

2021	\$791,494
2022	\$791,589
2023	\$1,487,702

Maximum basic grant amount

1. The Provider's maximum basic grant amount is calculated by applying indexation consistent with the methodology set out in Part 5-6 of HESA.
2. The 2023 maximum basic grant amount included \$691,800 for commencing Equity Places as set out in Table 3a(i) of Appendix 2.

Table 2a: Allocation of Commonwealth supported places for 2021¹**Non-Grandfathered Load Allocations:**

Cluster No.	Funding cluster	Undergraduate Allocation	Non-research Postgraduate Allocation	Total Allocation
1	Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics, Commerce, Communications, Society and Culture	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	Education, Clinical Psychology, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Allied Health, Other Health, Built Environment, Computing, Visual and Performing Arts, Professional Pathway Psychology, Professional Pathway Social Work	12.5	8.2	20.7
3	Nursing, Indigenous and Foreign Languages, Engineering, Surveying, Environmental Studies, Science	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pathology	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	12.5	8.2	20.7

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.

Grandfathered load allocations

Description of allocation	Undergraduate Allocation	Non-research Postgraduate Allocation	Total Allocation
Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics or Commerce	0.0	0.0	0.0
Communications	0.0	0.0	0.0
The Social Studies or Behavioural Science subpart of the Society and Culture part of the first funding cluster	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any other subpart of the Society and Culture part of the first funding cluster	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education, Clinical Psychology, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Allied Health, Other Health, Built Environment or Computing	21.7	14.2	35.9
Visual and Performing Arts	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional Pathway Psychology, Professional Pathway Social Work	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing, Indigenous and Foreign Languages, Engineering, Surveying, Environmental Studies, Science	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pathology	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	21.7	14.2	35.9

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.

Table 2b: Allocation of Commonwealth supported places for 2022¹**Non-Grandfathered Load Allocations:**

Cluster No.	Funding cluster	Undergraduate Allocation	Non-research Postgraduate Allocation	Total Allocation
1	Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics, Commerce, Communications, Society and Culture	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	Education, Clinical Psychology, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Allied Health, Other Health, Built Environment, Computing, Visual and Performing Arts, Professional Pathway Psychology, Professional Pathway Social Work	21.9	14.4	36.3
3	Nursing, Indigenous and Foreign Languages, Engineering, Surveying, Environmental Studies, Science	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pathology	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	21.9	14.4	36.3

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.

Grandfathered load allocations

Description of allocation	Undergraduate Allocation	Non-research Postgraduate Allocation	Total Allocation
Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics or Commerce	0.0	0.0	0.0
Communications	0.0	0.0	0.0
The Social Studies or Behavioural Science subpart of the Society and Culture part of the first funding cluster	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any other subpart of the Society and Culture part of the first funding cluster	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education, Clinical Psychology, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Allied Health, Other Health, Built Environment or Computing	12.3	8.1	20.4
Visual and Performing Arts	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional Pathway Psychology, Professional Pathway Social Work	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing, Indigenous and Foreign Languages, Engineering, Surveying, Environmental Studies, Science	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pathology	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	12.3	8.1	20.4

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.

Table 2c: Allocation of Commonwealth supported places for 2023¹**Non-Grandfathered Load Allocations:**

Cluster No.	Funding cluster	Undergraduate Allocation	Non-research Postgraduate Allocation	Total Allocation
1	Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics, Commerce, Communications, Society and Culture	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	Education, Clinical Psychology, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Allied Health, Other Health, Built Environment, Computing, Visual and Performing Arts, Professional Pathway Psychology, Professional Pathway Social Work	28.9	19.0	47.9
3	Nursing, Indigenous and Foreign Languages, Engineering, Surveying, Environmental Studies, Science	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pathology	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	28.9	19.0	47.9

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.

Grandfathered load allocations

Description of allocation	Undergraduate Allocation	Non-research Postgraduate Allocation	Total Allocation
Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics or Commerce	0.0	0.0	0.0
Communications	0.0	0.0	0.0
The Social Studies or Behavioural Science subpart of the Society and Culture part of the first funding cluster	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any other subpart of the Society and Culture part of the first funding cluster	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education, Clinical Psychology, English, Mathematics, Statistics, Allied Health, Other Health, Built Environment or Computing	5.3	3.5	8.7
Visual and Performing Arts	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional Pathway Psychology, Professional Pathway Social Work	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing, Indigenous and Foreign Languages, Engineering, Surveying, Environmental Studies, Science	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pathology	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	5.3	3.5	8.7

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.

Table 3a: Allocation of Commonwealth supported places to deliver Equity Places commencing in 2023**Non-Grandfathered Load Allocations:**

Funding cluster	Funding cluster part and national priority	Number of non-grandfathered undergraduate places for 2023 grant years (EFTSL)	Number of non-grandfathered non-research postgraduate places for 2023 grant years (EFTSL)	Total Allocation (EFTSL)
1	Commerce, Society and Culture	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	Education, Computing	50.0	0.0	50.0
3	Nursing, Engineering	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	50.0	0.0	50.0

NOTES:

1. Figures are rounded for display, however they may contain underlying decimal places.
2. The relevant national priority is set out in paragraph 10(c) of the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines 2020: "for courses commencing in 2023 and 2024 only, increasing the number of persons from under-represented backgrounds undertaking courses of study in the following areas of study: Education, Nursing, Engineering, Computing, Commerce, and Society and Culture." The CGS funding provided under this agreement must only be used by the Provider to provide courses in areas of study referred to in this national priority.
3. Quoted places are indicative only of commencing EFTSL implied by the allocated funding amounts.

Table 3a(i): Allocated funding for Equity Places for 2023

Priority Area	2023 Places	2023 (\$)
Education	50.0	\$691,800
Total	50.0	\$691,800

Note: places are indicative only of commencing EFTSL implied by the allocated funding amounts.

Table 3a(ii): Approved courses to be delivered with allocated funding for Equity Places in 2023

Course Type	Priority Area	Course Name
Bachelor Degree	Education	Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Bachelor Degree	Education	Bachelor of Education (Secondary)