

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2.

**Output Group:** 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

#### **DEST Question No. E666\_05**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Why has the Government decided not to hold an open public review of higher education indexation arrangements?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Review of Indexation*

The Government is well aware of the sector's views on indexation and public funding for universities.

The Government conducted extensive consultations with the sector through the Crossroads review of higher education.

- More than 730 submissions were received.
- A total of 49 consultation forums were held, involving around 800 people.
- A Reference Group, consisting of a number of eminent Australians representing business, industry, students, the Indigenous community and the higher education and vocational and training sectors, provided support and advice throughout the process.

The Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee was also invited to provide a submission to the review of indexation arrangement for higher education to ensure that the Government was aware of any changes in its views.

The implications of alternative indexation regimes is highly technical and it is appropriate that the review be done by the relevant Federal government departments, that is the Department of Education, Science and Training, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Treasury and the Department of Finance and Administration, which have significant expertise in the area.