

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. E821_05

Senator Stott-Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

How many extra Indigenous university staff would be required to be employed before the Department would recommend one postgraduate scholarship for Indigenous staff members at each university? Are there any plans to move towards such a target for Indigenous staffing levels?

Answer:

Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme

The Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme offers five national scholarships each year to Indigenous staff of Australian universities. These scholarships allow for payments which are equivalent in financial value to the Australian Postgraduate Awards and provide each scholarship holder with funding for tuition fees and/or student contribution amounts of up to \$10,600 and a stipend of \$21,400 (both indexed annually).

The demand for these scholarships in the 2004 application round (for which scholarship holders are studying in 2005) allowed each applicant to be provided with a scholarship.

There are no plans to set such a target for Indigenous staffing levels.