

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E1006_06

Senator Stephens provided in writing.

Question:

What are the costs so far incurred in relation to the RQF? Please itemise:

- Costs associated with Sir Gareth Roberts – airfares, accommodation, remuneration, other costs
- Costs associated with the EAG – accommodation, airfares, consultations, other costs
- DEST staffing costs and number of staff currently working on RQF, including pay scales
- Any other costs

Answer:

Research Quality Framework

In its 2004-05 Budget, the Australian Government provided \$2.8m over two years to establish Quality and Accessibility Frameworks for Publicly Funded Research, as part of the *Backing Australia's Ability - Building our Future through Science & Innovation* package.

Cost Description	2004/05 16 August 2004 to 30 June 2005	2005/06 1 July 2005 to 28 February 2006	Total 2004/05 and 2005/06
Sir Gareth Roberts	76,866	62,628	139,494
EAG ¹ (ex Sir Gareth)	48,673	70,142	118,816
DEST Staff costs ²	545,513	480,430	1,025,943
Other costs	413,066	193,859	606,925
Total Costs	1,084,118	807,059	1,891,178

¹ Given the specialist nature of the Expert Advisory Group and the short timeframe that it was to operate, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations recommended that the Minister pay fees to eligible Office Holders under equivalent administrative arrangements to Remuneration Tribunal conditions.

² As at 28 February 2006, there were five FTE staff supporting the RQF. On-costs are included.