

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E892_06

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

The former Minister for Education pledged \$80 million dollars in funding as a transition fund for maintenance and construction of sporting and recreation facilities. What is the eligibility criteria for these funds? If the eligibility criteria has not yet been determined, when will it be determined?

Which universities are being consulted to determine eligibility criteria?

The former Minister for Education also pledged “*access to appropriate financial management and accounting bodies to assist with business plans, asset and financial restructuring where this may be necessary and is requested;*” (media release- *Implementing Voluntary Student Unionism*- 12/12/05)

Have there been requests for this assistance? How is the government providing these services? How much has the government budgeted for these services?

When will the tender process to choose an organisation to conduct an independent assessment of the impact of VSU commence?

Answer:

Implementation of Voluntary Student Unionism

The eligibility criteria will not be determined until after a period of consultation with all universities, as well as other relevant bodies.

No. These services will be funded via the Workplace Productivity Programme. The Programme has \$83 million available from 2006 to 2008.

The independent assessment will not commence until after 30 June 2008. The timing of the tender process has not been determined.