

**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING
SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 - Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E804_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

1. Can you provide some detail about the process and timeline for the review of university reforms announced by the Minister on 19 December?
2. DEST is undertaking this review?
3. What is the first step in the process?
4. When will the discussion paper be released?
5. What will be the process and timeline for consultation on this?
6. What will be the next stage?
7. Can you provide a schedule for the release of further papers, consultation etc?
8. Will you be calling for submissions in response to each paper?
9. Will the review report be publicly available?
10. Will you seek formal responses to it?

Answer:

Review of the Higher Education Support Act 2003

1. The process and timeline for the review is given in the Minister for Education, Science and Training's media release of 19 December 2006.
2. Yes.
3. The first phase of the review is focusing on the current discipline groupings and relativities within the cluster funding mechanism and the pipeline arrangements for the funding on new Commonwealth supported places.
4. The public discussion paper for the first phase of the review was released on 19 December 2006.
5. The discussion paper invited submissions until 26 February 2007. State-wide consultation forums were also been held in parallel with higher education providers, peak bodies and other professional organisations and interested parties.
6. The Minister will announce priorities for the next phases of the review in due course.
7. See answer to question 6.

8. Yes.
9. The Minister for Education, Science and Training will make a decision on the public release of the report.
10. The Minister for Education, Science and Training will make any relevant decision on responses to the report.