

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E278_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003, EWRE Hansard page 537

Question:

In regard to the funding of schools on page 27 of the PBS, there is an increase of \$9.148 million, up \$2.2 million from last year.

1. What increased functions will it resource, and the increased accountability matters raised on previous matters.
2. Will the increase be used to review the current SES funding scheme and preparation for the new legislation ?
3. How much is being spent on the administration of government school grants ?

Answer:

Output Group 1.1 – departmental expenses

1. Since the inception of the outcome/output framework in 1999-00, the Department has continued to refine its outcome/output structure and cost attribution process. In 2003-04 the Department has made a number of changes to the outcome/output structure. A new output group "Assistance for transition through and from school" has been created under Outcome 1 with further changes in Outcome 2. This has led to a reattribution of costs across all outcomes in particular corporate costs.

The estimate for Output Group 1.1 in the 2003-04 Portfolio Budget Statements has been based on 2002-03 actuals as opposed to the 2002-03 Budget Estimate split. A more appropriate comparison would be to compare the 2003-04 estimate for output group 1.1 against the 2002-03 actuals for Output Group 1.1, which can be found in Table 2.1.1 on page 44 of the Portfolio Budget Statements.

2. The increase between Estimated Actual for 2002-03 and the 2003-04 Budget Estimate is \$910,000. This increase can in part be attributed to the activities leading into the preparation for the next Schools and Indigenous funding quadrenniums. The next quadrenniums will commence in 2005. Funding and program arrangements will need to be agreed during the 2003-04 financial year. This work includes the geo-coding of census data for the SES funding model.

3. The outcome/output structure does not collect data on the attribution of workload between government and non government school grants. The Department however estimates the overall comparative workload between non-government and government schools grants in output group 1.1 as 70:30. The 2003-04 government estimate is therefore \$2.7 million.