

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 - Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E305_04

Senator Harradine asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

In the context of the previous question about the Department's activities in relation to reaching out and engaging with disadvantaged students, Senator Harradine asked: "What research has DEST undertaken or funded in this area? Please provide copies."

Answer:

Disadvantaged students

Various research has looked at equity issues in higher education over the years, though this has not specifically focussed on reaching out to engage disadvantaged students.

Under proposed new arrangements for equity funding, each university will be required to have in place an outreach program to attract equity group students to higher education.

One published report which might be of particular interest is an EIP report by Richard James entitled *Socioeconomic Background and Higher Education Participation: An Analysis of school students' aspirations and expectations*, published in April 2002 (copy provided). This report is also available in electronic form on the Department's website at:

http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/eippubs/eip02_5/eip02_5.pdf