

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2 and 3
Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education
3.1 – Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E310_04

Senator Harradine asked on 5 June 2003

Question:

Isn't it true that having all Commonwealth research funding as competitive or performance-based funding would inherently discriminate against regional universities because of the special role they play in their communities and because of the special challenges they face such as "higher costs as a result of size, location and history", "less potential to diversity revenue sources" and "a narrower industrial base providing fewer opportunities from commercial partnerships"?

Answer:

Regional Universities - Research Funding

No. The majority of regional universities have benefited from the current mix of performance-based funding through the Research Training Scheme and the Institutional Grants Scheme and have not required assistance from the Regional Support package. Regional universities can be competitive in areas of niche research under the ARC Linkages Projects, including on issues designated of importance to regional and rural Australia.