

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: – 3.1 Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E183_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Has DEST conducted other research into the productivity returns from R&D in the past 5 years?

Answer:

Research into productivity returns

In 2003 the Department of Education Science and Training commissioned a review by Professor Steve Dowrick of the Australian National University of the economic literature on the relationship between science, research and development and productivity.

The Department has taken steps to have carried out in 2004 two studies that have among their objectives examining the returns from investment in public sector research.

The first of these, entitled “Measuring the full impact of research commercialisation”, includes among its objectives “To suggest methodologically robust and cost effective strategies to develop systematically a rich understanding of how publicly funded research leads to economic benefits.” This study is expected to be completed in November 2004.

The second, entitled “Measuring the impact of publicly funded research”, has the following objectives: “To produce a classification/typology of the public benefits of research taking into account international and Australian efforts to date to build such a typology; and to propose ways of systematically and cost effectively measuring each of the benefits in this typology, taking into account performance monitoring and funding arrangements that impact on these measures.” This study is expected to be completed in September 2004.