

## 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. E255\_05**

Senator Carr asked on 3 June 2004, EWRE Hansard page 44:

#### **Question:**

Has the Department undertaken any analysis or know of any into the trends of Australian research degree enrolments over the past two decades? Has any historical work been done with regard to that? Why have master's enrolment levels fallen from 43% in 1989 to 24% in 2001?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Trends of Australian research degree enrolments*

The Department has not undertaken any analysis into the trends of Australian research degree enrolments over the past two decades. The Department's annual publication, *Selected Higher Education Statistics*, includes information on commencing students by age group and broad level of course. The *Selected Higher Education Statistics 1999* publication includes information (Table 1) on commencing students by level of course from 1989 to 1999. This table shows that 2,190 domestic Masters by Research students commenced their studies in 1989. The equivalent table in *Selected Higher Education Statistics 2001* shows that 2,881 domestic Masters by Research students commenced their studies in 2001. These publications are available on our website at: <http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/statpubs.htm>.