EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: All
Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E268_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to DEST Question No. E1008_04 and others

Question:

When did the Department adopt the policy of declining to supply time series information for months and years prior to its creation in its current "DEST" incarnation (ie as "DETYA")? Why did it do this? With respect to E1008_04 and other answers in the Budget and the prior (February) Estimates round where you have used this practice, can you please provide the information as originally requested? Where the change is materially relevant to changes and trends in the data, please indicate where and why, with relevant information.

Answer:

DEST Administrative Costs and Information – Time Series

The Department has not adopted a policy of declining to supply time series information for months and years prior to its creation in its current "DEST" incarnation. Where the Committee asked for "DEST" information we have supplied "DEST" information. Now that the Committee has specifically asked for information prior to DEST's creation we will provide the answer where this is practicable and the resource demands are reasonable. Where a question has not specified "DEST" we will adopt the same approach.

Answers to E1008_04 and others that referred specifically to DEST from the February 2004 Estimates round will be updated using the above mentioned approach.

The Department always uses its best endeavours to answer Senate questions and our ability to respond is considered on a case by case basis for each question.

Please note that data provided for the period prior to November 2001 (when DEST was created) will not be comparable to the post 2001 information.

In terms of reporting on finances, DEST's corporate financial system was changed in 1999. Records in relation to financial information prior to that would have to be accessed from archived material that was generated using a superseded system.