

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: All

Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E278_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refer to DEST Question No. E1003_04 and E268_05.

Question:

How many staff had mobile phones issued by DEST in 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04? How many sections of DEST are allocated a mobile phone for shared use? How many mobile phones in total are there in DEST?

Answer:

Mobile Phones

In response to a question earlier in the year (E1003_04 refers) the Department reported that 717 staff had mobile phones issued by DEST for 2003-04 as at 30 March 2004, this figure remains the same as at 30 June 2004.

The figures of the number of staff who had mobile phones issued by DEST include pool phones and have no direct correlation with the number of active services as at the end of each respective financial year.

Pool phones are issued on a business requirement basis. There are currently 54 active DEST pool phones and they are allocated and listed by Group and State, not by section.

As at 22 June 2004 (this is the closest billing period to 30 June) there were a total of 577 active mobile phone services in DEST. The difference between the number of services issued (717) and the total number of active mobile services (577) can be attributed to services being cancelled, suspended, ported (moved from one provider to another) and change of ownerships between departments and individuals.

To provide information from October 1998 to November 2001 (as DETYA) would not be practicable or a reasonable demand on resources (E268_05 refers), as extracting and collating the data required to do this would take 2 weeks. This involves asking the two service providers (Optus and Telstra) to extract the information from their historical billing databases and DEST staff would compile the information based on the monthly extracts from Optus and Telstra. It is not possible to provide the data for the pre-DETYA period (1996-1998) as approximately 50% of the staff and their corresponding records were transferred to DEWRSB.