

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: Cross portfolio

Output Group: Cross portfolio

DEST Question No. E295_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Please indicate whether the following Departmental obligations under law – Public Service Act 1999 and DEST-specific pieces of legislation – have been met for the most recent year or period, including dates:

1. HEFA/HESA reporting [including, until 2004-05, HEFA annual report required to be tabled detailing determinations to be made under the Act: there has been an “oversight” and they haven’t done this since 1999 for 1998 determinations].
2. Higher education triennial report
3. Higher education student statistics
 - a) first half year figures for previous year;
 - b) staff statistics for previous year;
 - c) schools quadrennial Administrative Guidelines
4. Higher Ed student statistics
5. Higher Ed finance statistics
6. DEST Annual Report
7. Green Book (States Grants Act report) for schools, including details of any changes from the previous year in what information is included and the level of detail about expenditure
8. Gazette list of non-government schools eligible for General Recurrent Grants

Answer:

Public Service Act Obligations

1. The *Higher Education Funding Act 1988* report (stipulated under Section 119) for 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 determinations was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 2 December 2003. The report for 2003 determinations will be tabled later this year when final funding determinations for 2003 are made.
2. The *Higher Education Report for the 2004 to 2006 Triennium* was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 8 June 2004.

(The electronic versions of the publications listed in questions 3 (a) and (b) and 4 below were made available on the Web on the dates shown.)

3. (a) Student 2003 (First Half Year) – Selected Higher Education Statistics - 18 August 2003;
 - (b) Staff 2003 - Selected Higher Education Statistics – 11 March 2004; and
 - (c) the Commonwealth programme for Schools Quadrennial Administrative Guidelines are not a requirement under the Public Service Act 1999 or DEST specific legislation.
4. Student 2003 – Selected Higher Education Statistics – 19 May 2004.
 5. The most recent version of the Higher Education Finance Statistics publication is 2002. This has been produced from the most recent available financial year information. The publication for 2003 will be available in September.
 6. The DEST Annual Report 2002-2003 was presented to the President of the Senate out of session on 24 October 2003, and tabled on 27 October 2003.
 7. Green report (*States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance Act 2000* – Report on financial assistance granted to each State in respect of 2002 – Section 116 of the *States Grants Primary and Secondary Education Act 2000* (the Act) requires the Minister to cause a report on financial assistance and the application of that assistance as soon as possible after 30 June each year. The 2002 report was tabled in Parliament in November in 2003 and is available at the current internet address
<http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/publications/Green/2002GreenReport>

The report for the 2003 programme year is currently being prepared and will be tabled in Parliament in November this year pursuant to section 116 of the Act. The report will incorporate a list of schools receiving general recurrent grant and capital grant payments.
 8. Sections 33(4) and 34(4) of the *States Grants Primary and Secondary Education Assistance Act 2000 (the Act)* requires the Minister to arrange for publication of the list of non-government schools and approved school systems (the Gazette list) eligible for General recurrent Grants as soon as practicable after 1 July in each programme year. The latest Gazette list was published in October 2003, and is available at the following internet address
<http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/gazettes/2003/index.htm>