

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

#### **DEST Question No. E337\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

I want to ask you about your comments on p.5 about the increase in wage costs in the sector in the period 1996-2003. You say that wage costs increased by 28%, and that this figure is “*broadly comparable with the growth in the SNA*” [safety net adjustment].

What was the growth in the SNA in that period?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Safety Net Adjustments*

The Department of Finance and Administration has advised that the Safety Net Adjustments between 1996 and 2003 increased the Federal Minimum Wage by around 28.3%, from \$349.40 to \$448.40.