

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Higher Education Group

DEST Question No. E347_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

You say that the CGS amount will be increased, subject to conditions applied to institutions, by 7.5% by 2007, “to assist the sustainability and quality of the sector”.

- (a) What does that phrase imply?
- (b) Doesn't it imply that the sector is currently, or will soon become, unsustainable and of less-than-ideal quality?
- (c) If not, why did the Government decide to make this considerable amount of money available?

Answer:

Clarify the implications of the phrase “to assist the sustainability and quality of the sector”

- (a) The additional financial resources can be used to further improve the quality and financial position (sustainability) of institutions as determined by individual providers.

Increased workplace flexibility and improvements to governance resulting from compliance with the Workplace Relations Requirements and the National Governance Protocols are also intended to enhance the sector's sustainability and quality.

- (b) No.
- (c) To further improve sustainability and quality.