

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. E371_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

You might also recall from last year's hearing that my investigations had uncovered that another author relied on heavily by MUP in getting its research publication tally up – Professor Michael Webber – had two articles on last year's list in relation to which he was described as a staff member of the University of Melbourne, and not of MUP at all.

These articles remain on the 2004 calendar year list. They fail to meet the DEST guidelines because the guidelines state that the person must be explicitly identified as affiliated with an institution for that institution to claim the work. That is the case, isn't it?

Answer:

Melbourne University Private

HEPs exercise their own judgement in determining which research publications meet DEST's requirements for inclusion in publications counts. DEST does not assess or formally recognise the publications. Nor does DEST audit or check HEPs' publications counts. In DEST's experience, HEPs take considerable care to ensure that their publications counts are accurate.

DEST's research publication requirements are set out in the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) Specifications. The 2005 HERDC Specifications are available from http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/online_forms_services/documents/specs2005_pdf.htm.

The HERDC Specifications indicate that author affiliation must be identified either within or on the work being claimed and describe the types of supporting statements that can substitute when author affiliation is not identified within the work.