

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. E421_06

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

In response to E821_05, you stated that there are no plans to increase the number of Indigenous Staff Scholarships above the current number of five?

- a) What is the rationale for not providing any further scholarships?
- b) Has the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council been consulted about this? If yes, what was their view?
- c) Will they be consulted this year about this issue?

Answer:

Indigenous staff scholarships

- a) The Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme is one of four initiatives addressing equity within the new policy framework for higher education and was introduced as a result of the 2003 review of higher education. The number of scholarships was determined following consultations conducted as part of the higher education review. The number was set with a view to ensuring that institutions were able to maintain an adequate level of Indigenous staff in universities. It was also set to ensure that within the budget provided for this programme, the level of funding provided to each scholarship holder would be sufficient to allow one year off from full-time work.
- b) and c) The Council was established following the commencement of the Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme. The Council has met twice in 2005 and in accordance with the Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme Guidelines, considered the 2005 Indigenous Staff Scholarships Programme applications at its June meeting and made recommendations to the Minister.