

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance for Individuals including those with special needs.

DEST Question No. E325_07

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Please provide the amount of expenditure (actuals and estimates) for the following programs for the years: 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 (please also provide the figures on a calendar year basis).

A) ABSTUDY

B) ISP

Answer:

A) *ABSTUDY Expenditures*

Financial year, \$million

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
ABSTUDY – Secondary	92.8	93.2	99.1	98.1
ABSTUDY – Tertiary	57.6	59.9	61.1	52.7
ABSTUDY - Total	150.4	153.1	160.2	150.8

Calendar year, \$million

	2004	2005
	Actual Cash	Actual Cash
ABSTUDY – Secondary	97.0	101.0
ABSTUDY – Tertiary	68.5	60.6
ABSTUDY - Total	165.5	161.6

Notes:

* *Financial year* expenditures are shown on an accruals basis.

* *Calendar year* expenditures are shown on a cash basis, forward estimates are not available for calendar years.

The difference between accrual and cash expenditures was largely due to movements in debt and provision for doubtful debt.

The drop in estimated ABSTUDY tertiary expenditure in 2007-08 is due to the 2006-07 Budget initiative which will limit the period of time to four years that a student can receive the ABSTUDY Living Allowance or Pensioner Education Supplement while studying vocational and technical education courses at the Certificate I and Certificate II levels. In limiting assistance to undertake study at the Certificate I and II levels, it is expected that some students will choose to progress to higher level studies at Certificate level III and above and continue to receive ABSTUDY. Others will choose to seek or move to employment.

B) INDIGENOUS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ISP)

The Indigenous Support Programme (ISP) assists higher education institutions to meet the special needs of Indigenous students and to advance the goals of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy in the higher education sector. For example, activities may include study skills and personal counselling, provision of study centres, cultural awareness activities and outreach programmes.

The funding on a calendar year basis as per the 2006 Budget, \$million

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
24.9	27.1	29.3	31.6	34.0

The funding on a financial year basis as per the 2006 Budget, \$million

2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
27.1	29.3	31.6	34.0

Note: Actual and estimated expenditure are the same.

Funding is provided to institutions on a calendar year basis. Funding is normally approved at the beginning of the calendar year.

Funding prior to 2005 was appropriated under the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988* and from 2005 the funding was appropriated under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.