

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.1 Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E327_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Higher Education Support Act underspent by \$14.1 million for 2005-06 compared to last year's PBS estimates. Why? Where was the under-spend? Please provide figures to account for the \$14.1 million.

Answer:

Budget Issues

The figures in the 2006-07 PBS represent a revision of the original budget that was reported in the 2005-06 PBS and was not an under-spend. The budget was revised because the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* appropriates funds on a calendar year basis. The \$14.1 million was originally estimated to be expensed in the first half of the 2006 calendar year (2005-06 financial year) but it was anticipated to be expensed in the second half of the 2006 calendar year (2006-07 financial year). This resulted in a reduction of the 2005-06 budget and an increase in the 2006-07 budget.