

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.1 – Research Infrastructure
3.2 – Assistance for Collaboration and Innovation

DEST Question No. E391_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

The 2006-07 Science and Innovation Budget Tables show that Commonwealth support for Science & Innovation as the percentage of total Commonwealth expenditure was as follows:

It went from:

2.93% in 2003-04 to
2.79% in 2004-05 to
2.89% in 2005-06 to
2.78% in 2006-07
(Table 1, page 2)

Can DEST confirm this? Is expenditure on science and innovation declining as a proportion of Commonwealth expenditure since 2003-04?

Answer:

Science and Innovation

Not all percentages supplied are confirmed. Based on the latest data, the estimates on Commonwealth support for science and innovation (S&I) as a percentage of total Commonwealth expenditure between 2003-04 and 2006-07 are presented in the following table.

Financial Year	Commonwealth support for S&I (\$m) ⁽¹⁾	Total Commonwealth expenditure (\$m) ⁽²⁾	Commonwealth support for S&I as a percentage of total Commonwealth expenditure (%)
2003-04	5337.6	182371	2.93
2004-05	5438.4	195680	2.78
2005-06	5951.2	206018	2.89
2006-07	5973.9	219730	2.72

Sources: (1) DEST, *The Australian Government's 2006-07 Science and Innovation Budget Tables*, Table 1, May 2006; (2) Australian Government, *Budget Strategy and Outlook 2006-07*, Budget Paper No. 1, May 2006.

Commonwealth support for science and innovation increased by 12% in nominal terms between 2003-04 and 2006-07. Government funding for Research and Development (R&D) in Australia represents 0.69% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This places Australia 8th place out of 30 OECD countries and is above the OECD average (0.65%) and the EU-15 (0.64%).