

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. E392_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

If Table 1 figures of the 2006-07 Science and Innovation Budget Tables are worked out as a percentage of GDP, the result is the following:

1997-98	0.64%	2002-03	0.62%
1998-99	0.62%	2003-04	0.64%
1999-2000	0.62%	2004-05	0.61%
2000-01	0.61%	2005-06	0.62%
2001-02	0.63%	2006-07	0.59%

Can DEST confirm these figures? Is it the case that expenditure on science and innovation has declined from 0.64% in 1997-98 to 0.59% in 2006-07?

Answer:

Science and Innovation

Yes the percentages supplied are correct please refer to the following sources:

(1) DEST, *The Australian Government's 2006-07 Science and Innovation Budget Tables*, May 2006;

(2) Australian Bureau of Statistics, *5026.0 Table 43: Expenditure on GDP, current prices – annual (\$m)*, June 2006.

Commonwealth support for science and innovation as a proportion of GDP is estimated at 0.59% in 2006-07, down from 0.64% in 1997-98. The fall in the proportion is attributable to the strong economic growth over the period. Australia's GDP increases approximately 75% in nominal terms while Commonwealth support for science and innovation rises 62%, from \$3,692.2 million in 1997-98 to \$5,973.9 million in 2006-07. According to the latest data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Australia's GDP growth rate is among one of the highest in OECD economies over the period.