

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEST Question No. E167_08

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

1. What funding is available for the functioning of the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council in 2007-08 and where does it appear in any PBS or Budget paper?
2. In a media release of 25th May Minister Bishop announced the appointment of the second IHEAC. When I checked the website on 29th May the council members had not been updated to show the new members – how often is the site updated?
3. Does the NTEU have an observer position on this council?
4. Is there still a requirement for universities to have an Indigenous employment plan or strategy, which attracts additional funding? Or has this program ended or been rolled into another program
5. If there is still such a program attracting additional funding how many universities actually have such strategies in place?
6. Do DEST have any method to monitor compliance with these plans?
7. Do you have data on the number of Indigenous staff at Australian universities? Both academic and other?
8. What is the amount of funding available to universities complying with this Indigenous employment strategy?
9. Have you a breakdown of what individual universities have been paid under this program?
10. What happens if a university does not have such a plan or fails to meet targets?

Answer:

Indigenous Higher Education

1. Refer to page 116 in the Department's Portfolio Budget Statements 2006-2007 which is located at http://www.dest.gov.au/portfolio_department/dest_information/publications_resources/resources/budget_information/2006/pbs.htm
2. The website was updated on 31 May 2007. This followed the public announcement and of despatch letters of appointment to each member.
3. Yes.

4. Yes, as part of the annual requirements under the Indigenous Support Programme each university provides an Indigenous Education Statement to the Department.
5. All universities have strategies in place.
6. Yes. DEST analyses the Indigenous Education Statements annually and facilitates compliance visits to the Universities.
7. These figures are reported in the Departments National Higher Education Statistics Collection which is located at www.dest.gov.au/highered/statpubshtm.
8. In 2007, \$32 million was allocated for all universities under the Indigenous Support Programme.
9. Yes. The individual allocations are published in *The Higher Education Reports*. To date all universities have complied with the ISP funding arrangements.