

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** ALL

**Output Group:** ALL

#### **DEST Question No. E445\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003, EWRE Hansard page 68.

#### **Question:**

- a. The [interim] report [on *Mapping Australian Science and Innovation*] emphasises the importance of international high bandwidth connections as a guarantee of continuing research health. How many representations were made on this matter?
- b. In your own evaluation, what is the scale of the shortfall?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Mapping Australian Science and Innovation*

- a. As it required the collection and assessment of key factual information on our science and innovation system, the mapping process was based on research and data analysis conducted by the Taskforce of departmental and agency officers and did not involve a call for submissions from interested parties. Some stakeholder organisations did approach the Taskforce to offer assistance with data collection or to identify relevant research that could be drawn on, including two specifically on international high bandwidth. Data used in relation to bandwidth was primarily sourced through the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, drawing in particular on the work of the Broadband Advisory Group and the Framework for the Future Steering Committee. Reports by two expert committees in the higher education sector – the Higher Education Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the Higher Education Bandwidth Advisory Committee – were also drawn upon.
- b. The international bandwidth required by Australian universities and the research community is currently provided by the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet). While existing links are not saturated, AARnet is in the process of negotiating with suppliers for increased bandwidth in anticipation of expected increases in demand from the research community.