

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** All

**Output Group:** All

**Dest Question No. E354\_05**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

**Question:**

In the June round the following questions were put on notice:

- E079\_05
- E136\_05
- E138\_05
- E269\_05
- E270\_05
- E271\_05
- E278\_05
- E282\_05
- E285\_05
- E291\_05
- E292\_05
- E309\_05

These questions are yet to be answered. Please provide the answers and an explanation of the delay for each.

<b>2004-05 BUDGET ESTIMATES – June 2004</b>				
<b>QoN No.</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Provided to Committee?</b>	<b>Reason for Delay</b>
79	HEG	Can you explain how a smaller no of students being affects would result in an 80% increase in addit HECS being paid by students over next 4 yrs? Who requested advice? Who was contact officer in MO? When was original advice prov? When was revised advice prov? (written)	YES	This question was not followed up in a timely manner.
136	SG	Schools funding announcement: Minister's media release - Pls provide info for each of the yrs 2005-08 in relation to pages 1, 2 3 and 4. (written)	YES	The response was delayed due to the resources required to draft it.
138	SG	School funding: the facts - Pls prov full details of funding elements for schools on page 2. Incl statement from Dept's auditor. (written)	YES	The response was delayed due to the resources required to draft it.

**2004-05 BUDGET ESTIMATES – June 2004**

269	FIN	DEST travel - Increase - Can you explain reasons for this? What form does your monitoring of these costs take? What measures have you instituted to limit these costs? Have you experience cost overruns as a result of blowouts in travel costs? Pls prov details (written) (E1008_04)	YES	<p>Question 269 and 282 were answered together to ensure consistency.</p> <p>The staff who were involved in preparing and analysing the data also had conflicting priorities with the finalisation of the Department's Financial Statements.</p> <p>After initial data was gathered it was evident that further detail was required to answer the question. An enhanced reporting facility was specified and programmed for the Department's financial system to be able to drill down into trip related data for travel expenditure.</p> <p>As a result the answers were delayed.</p>
270	FIN	Indexation of DEST programs - Can you confirm that previous Labor Govt announced that it wld be moving to WCIs based on awaited ABS WCIs? Can you confirm that an interim measure adopted temp by Labor Govt has been retained by current Govt to this day? Questions about specific programs and indices. (written) (E740_04)	YES	<p>Question 270 and 285 were answered together to ensure consistency.</p> <p>Responses were delayed due to resource pressures on expert staff in the Finance area of the Department.</p>
271	CSG	Cld you prov an update of the list of all admin programs in DEST. (written) (E999_04)	YES	<p>The input from some Groups required substantial analysis of data. By the time this was received, it was necessary to re-check data from other Groups in case there had been changes.</p>
278	ISG	How many staff had mobile phones issued by DEST in 1996-97 to 2003-04? How many sections of DEST are allocated a mobile phone for shared use? How many mobile phones in total are there in DEST? (written) (E1003_04)	YES	<p>This was an update to an existing answer provided earlier in the year. We were required to investigate what was involved in gathering the additional information that was not provided in the previous answer.</p>
282	FIN	What was total cost of domestic trips of staff of DST in 1996-97 to 2003-04 to date? How much was the total cost of accommodation allowances, food allowances and airfares? (written) (E1008_04)	YES	<p>Question 269 and 282 were answered together to ensure consistency.</p> <p>The staff who were involved in preparing and analysing the data also had conflicting priorities with the finalisation of the Department's Financial Statements.</p> <p>After initial data was gathered it was evident that further detail was required to answer the question. An enhanced reporting facility was specified and programmed for the Department's financial system to be able to drill down into trip related data for travel expenditure.</p> <p>As a result the answers were delayed.</p>

**2004-05 BUDGET ESTIMATES – June 2004**

<b>285</b>	FIN	Indexation of DEST programs - Pls prov details of makeup of all ten WCI index formulae. Pls explain diff in timing of the striking of WCI1 and the CAF. Pls prov detail of timing of striking of other indices applied to programs in portfolio. Pls prov explanation of factors of BCI index applied to schools capital funding. (written)	YES	Question 270 and 285 were answered together to ensure consistency.  Responses were delayed due to resource pressures on expert staff in the Finance area of the Department.
<b>291 &amp; 292</b>	IEG	How many overseas trips were taken by employees in DEST in 1996-97 to 2003-04 to date? What were the final destinations of these overseas trips? (written) (E1014_04)  What was total cost of overseas trips of staff of DEST in 1996-97 to 2003-04 to date? How much was the total cost of accommodation allowances, food allowances and airfares? (written) (E1015_04)	YES	This required reworking of the data available from the SAP system in order to provide the answer in the form required.
<b>309</b>	ARC	Pls provide copies of reports - disclosure of information - if a claim were made by a minister on commercial-in-confidence grounds, then committee would receive that claim. (pgs 35-36)	NO	Awaiting ARC response