

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.1 Research infrastructure; and  
3.2 Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

#### **DEST Question No. E463\_05**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What is the Government's target for national R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Research and development expenditure*

The Government does not support the setting of targets for research and development (R&D) expenditure in Australia. The Government prefers to demonstrate its commitment to science and innovation through longer-term funding support. With the announcement in May 2004 of the \$5.3 billion package - Backing Australia's Ability – Building Our Future through Science and Innovation, the Government's additional investment in science and innovation will amount to \$8.3 billion over the 10 years to 2010-11. Combined with other science and innovation programmes, the Government's total commitment to science and innovation over this period totals to about \$52 billion.