

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: ALL

DEST Question No. E560_06

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

DEST staffing levels in Outcome 2 have risen from 606 FTE in 2004-05 to 720 FTE projected for 2005-06 (DEST annual report 2004-05, p.67).

What is the reason for this increase? To which groups/branches are these extra staff allocated? What will the cost of the salaries and associated expenses for these extra staff/positions?

Answer:

Increase in DEST staffing – Outcome 2

The increase in staffing for Outcome 2 is the result of the transfer of the functions of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) to the Department, the full year effect of the transfer of the Income Support programmes for students from the Department of Family and Community Service to the Department as well as a range of budget measures that impact on Outcome 2.

Specific measures that result in additional staffing are:

- Institute for Trade Skill Excellence;
- Pre-vocational training in trades;
- Student Financial Supplement Scheme – simplification of administrative arrangements; and
- Implementation of Higher Education Reforms;
- Tool kits for new apprentices in skill shortage trades; and
- New Apprenticeship Access Programme – additional places

Groups that will receive direct additional staffing allocations are:

- National Training Directions Group;
- Industry Skills Development Group;
- Higher Education group; and
- Strategic Analysis and Evaluation Group.

Individual Branch allocations will be made within Group resources to meet workload.

The estimated cost of the salaries and associated expenses for these extra staff/positions is \$12m.