

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E692_06

Senator Wong asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 100.

Question:

Are you able to detail what measures were taken by these universities (in deficit in 2003) in order to get out of deficit (by 2004)?

In the terms of what you took on notice previously, what I was referring to were the four universities that were in deficit in 2003 that were then not in deficit in 2004. Can you take on notice what measures they undertook, from the department's perspective, in order to get out of deficit?

Answer:

Universities with operating deficits

Of the ten universities in deficit in 2003, seven were not in deficit in 2004. These universities are: Australian National University; Central Queensland University; University of Southern Queensland; Australian Maritime College; Murdoch University; University of Notre Dame Australia; and University of Canberra.

The Department is aware of the following specific issues that caused these universities to improve their results in 2004:

Australian National University

- The increase in total revenue (23%) was larger than the increase in total expenditure (10%);
- The main increases in revenue were due to:
 - an ACT Government grant of \$12.551 million;
 - an increase in investment income of \$19.9 million; and
 - an increase in Australian Research Council grants of \$34.6 million.

Central Queensland University

- The increase in total revenue (20%) was larger than the increase in total expenditure (6%);
- The main increases in revenue were due to:
 - an increase in fees from overseas students of \$18.8 million; and
 - a donation from the winding up of the Central Queensland University Foundation.

University of Southern Queensland

- The increase in total revenue (9%) was larger than the increase in total expenditure (4%).

Australian Maritime College

- The increase in total revenue (14%) was larger than the increase in total expenditure (2%); and
- The main increase in revenue was due to \$1.2 million surplus resulting from capital sales.

Murdoch University

- The increase in total revenue (18%) was larger than the increase in total expenditure (8%);
- The main increases in revenue were due to:
 - dividends of \$11.8 million received;
 - an increase in other revenue of \$5.0 million.

University of Notre Dame Australia

- The increase in total revenue (85%) was larger than the increase in total expenditure (20%);
- The main increases were in other income:
 - an increase in donations and bequests of \$17.5 million; and
 - a land donation of \$15.8 million from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

University of Canberra

- There was an increase in total revenue (8%), whilst there was a decrease in total expenditure (1%); and
- The main increase in revenue was from an increase in ACT Government grants of \$10.112 million.