

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E776_06

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Research Quality Framework (RQF)

Will the RQF be trialled next year? Have particular universities been selected for a trial or will it be all of them? Please provide details. How will the trial RQF work? How much money has the government budgeted for the trial? Will DEST compensate universities' costs for participating in the trial RQF?

Answer:

Research Quality Framework

The RQF model as a whole will not be trialled in 2006 nor is there a specific budget allocation for this purpose. It is expected, however, that a programme of analytical work will be carried out in 2006 prior to the anticipated implementation of the RQF in 2007. This is likely to include development of the operation of various elements of the RQF model such as guidelines for assessing research outputs in different discipline areas, alternative funding models and Information Technology enhancements to support the efficient operation of the RQF.

It is expected that this work will be undertaken in close consultation with the university sector.

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the RQF met for the final time on 20 December 2005 and finalized its advice on the preferred RQF model. This advice, together with recommendations on the implementation of the RQF model, was provided to the Minister for Education, Science and Training following the EAG meeting. The Minister is expected to respond to the advice in early 2006.