

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E558_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

1. a) What will happen after 31 March 2007 to the six MNRFs currently funded until that date?
 - b) If they do not receive NCRIS funding, will they close?
 - c) Will Australia lose that capability?
2. a) How did DEST decide to give one-off funding to those particular six MNRFs and not the rest?
 - b) Was the one-off funding always planned?
 - c) Or is it because of a delay in NCRIS funding coming on stream?

Answer:

Funding and life of Major National Research Facilities (MNRFs)

1. a) Funding for the MNRF programme ceased on 30 June 2006.

Some of the new national facilities to be developed under NCRIS will, subject to suitable funding agreements being finalised, incorporate facilities and equipment funded from the MNRF programme and these facilities will therefore continue to be funded in this new form.

 - b) MNRFs not incorporated into the new national facilities will be subject to the arrangements provided for in their original funding agreements.
 - c) See Answer 1(a) above.
2. a) DEST identified MNRFs which were directly relevant to the priority capability areas identified in the NCRIS Roadmap.
 - b) No.
 - c) No.