

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 - Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E643_07

Senator Stephens provided in writing.

Question:

From 2007 DEST will cease using ordinal ranking as part of the methodology in assessment.

- a) Why has this change been proposed?
- b) What consultation was undertaken and what feedback has DEST received about this change?
- c) What model will be used instead?

Answer:

Learning and Teaching Performance Fund

- a) The use of ordinal ranking in the 2006 fund was one of the main concerns of the sector following the 2006 funding round. Universities argued that ordinal ranking exaggerated the difference between scores.
- b) The department undertook an extensive consultation process, following the 2006 funding round, including a discussion paper and national consultation meetings. The outcomes of these consultations were then considered by an advisory group, made up of sector representatives.
- c) The advisory group recommended the application of standardised scores and this approach has been used for the 2007 round.