

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.1 – Research Infrastructure

#### DEST Question No. E749-07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

#### Question:

What feedback and correspondence has DEST received from the universities regarding the proposed RQF models? Are the universities happy with their work so far? What are their major concerns expressed by the universities? Is DEST confident that the universities still support the development of an RQF? Please provide the correspondence received by universities so far.

What are the expenses so far incurred in the RQF process? Please itemise the costs. What are the total expenses incurred by the RQF DAG, including costs incurred by DEST in supporting RQF DAG? Please itemise the costs.

#### Answer:

##### *Proposed RQF Models*

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) has received feedback and correspondence from universities regarding the proposed RQF models in the form of email, fax and post. Feedback received in regard to the *RQF Issues Paper*, *Preferred Model* and the *Final Advice*, which has been authorised for publication, can be found on the DEST website at: <http://www.dest.gov.au/research/rqf>.

Themes include, for example, interest in:

- a) The measurement of impact;
- b) Attribution and cut off date for research to be included in the RQF;
- c) Funding implications;
- d) Possible administration burden; and
- e) Assessment of cross-disciplinary research and the effect on collaborative research behaviour.

University cohort groups are generally supportive of the RQF process and a new research funding scheme for Australia.

The total cost of the RQF process to 1/12/06 is \$2,007,191.

Description	2005-06	(to date) 2006-07
Staffing costs	\$517,529.54	\$307,332.67
Printing/Advertising	\$8,553.09	Nil
Expert Advisory Group	\$119,132.93	Nil
Development Advisory Group	Nil	\$133,998.97

<b>Consultants/Contractors</b>	\$45,242.82	\$23,133.52
<b>Venue Hire and Official Hospitality</b>	\$3,956.09	\$2,569.99
<b>DEST Travel and Incidentals</b>	\$69,723.55	\$18,146.38
<b>Administration</b>	\$2,291.54	\$1,703.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$766,429.56</b>	<b>\$486,884.76</b>