

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. E755_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Funding for NCRIS: Backing Australia's Ability provides the following Funding Overview for NCRIS.

\$m	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
NCRIS	1.9	15.1	100.3	102.7	104.9	107.3	109.7

1. Is the NCRIS process on track with this overview?
2. (a) Did DEST spend the \$1.9m it was meant to in 2004-05 and 15.1 million in 2005-06?

(b) If so, what was it spent on? Please break down costs, including staffing, and other expenses.
3. Is DEST on track to spend \$100.3 million in 2006-07?
4. Could we please have revised estimates for the forward years?

Answer:

NCRIS funding overview

1. Yes.
2. (a) Yes.

(b) Re \$1.9m – expenditure comprised staffing and other Departmental operating expenses relating to NCRIS programme development and support for expert committees.

Re \$15.1m – expenditure comprised research infrastructure for the Australian Institute of Marine Science (\$2.75m), Anglo Australian Telescope Board (\$2.05m), Brain and Mind Research Institute (\$2.0m), one-off funding for six Major National Research Facilities (\$5.2m), external facilitation of the development of NCRIS Investment Plans (\$0.94m); as well as expenses for the external costs of supporting the NCRIS Committee and its Sub-committees (\$0.2m), and staffing and other Departmental costs (\$1.96m).
3. Yes.
4. The estimates have not changed.