

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2006/07 — DEST INDEX OF QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QoN number	Senator	Agency/ Group	Outcome /Output	Hansard/ ref	Question
E519_07	Wong	IEG		Written	Please provide an update on the ESOS Compliance and Monitoring Activities undertaken by the Department since the report provided to the last Estimates hearings?
E520_07	Wong	IEG		Written	How many providers have had their CRICOS registration (a) suspended; (b) cancelled in the last year? Which providers, and on what grounds was the action referred to above undertaken?
E521_07	Wong	IEG		Written	Since the last Estimates hearings, has the Minister issued any more Ministerial Exemptions to the tuition assurance requirements under the ESOS Act? If so, to which providers and in respect of which courses?
E522_07	Wong	IEG		Written	How many education providers are operating in Australia under the auspices of the ESOS Act without being members of a tuition assurance scheme?
E523_07	Wong	SG		Written	<p>The answers provided for DEST Question No. E302_7 are incomplete. Please provide full details of the Budget assumptions to Table 7, Budget Paper No. 1 Page 6-9 for government and non-government schools separately.</p> <p>1) Supplementation:</p> <p>a) General recurrent grants: AGSRC assumptions, showing the \$ per student figures for estimated AGSRC primary and secondary over the calendar years incorporated within the Budget estimates and the total \$m for the financial years.</p> <p>b) Capital grants, for both the general element and the Investing in our schools element separately. Show the total \$m for the financial years for each element due to supplementation by the Buildings Price Index. Please also provide the assumed annual changes in the BPI for the period of the Budget estimates.</p> <p>c) Targeted programs: AGSRC assumptions, showing the \$ per student figures for estimated AGSRC over the calendar years incorporated within the Budget estimates and the total \$m for the financial years.</p> <p>d) IESIP: WCI1 assumptions, showing the \$ per student figures for estimated WCI1 over the calendar years incorporated within the Budget estimates and the total \$m for the financial years.</p> <p>e) Australian Technical Colleges: confirmation of the supplementation indexes used for the recurrent and capital components of this program, or that no supplementation is provided; and the \$m for the financial years.</p> <p>2) Enrolments:</p> <p>a) Government schools: please provide figures separately for each state and territory, and the national totals, for the primary and secondary enrolment projections in the 2006-07 Budget, for each of the years 2006 to 2010.</p> <p>b) Non-government schools: please provide figures separately:</p> <p>i. Catholic and independent schools ii. Each state and territory; and national.</p> <p>3) New programs: Budget measures</p> <p>a) Please provide \$m for each of the financial years of the Budget estimates and details of the program measures with explanations for each category:</p> <p>i. General recurrent grants: government and non-government schools separately</p> <p>ii. Capital: confirm the figures in Table 5 of the answer to E302_07 that the Budget measures for this program are 'nil'.</p> <p>iii. Targeted programs: government and non-government school separately, and name the programs.</p> <p>iv. IESIP: government and non-government schools separately, and describe the program changes or initiatives.</p>

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E524_07	Wong	SG	1.1	Written	<p>Funding for schools: Australian Technical Colleges (ATC) Output Group: 1.1 Please provide further information on the answer to DEST Question No. E289_07. Please confirm whether the Department agrees that the MCEETYA figure on average per student costs in a secondary school is appropriate for estimating the recurrent resources for the senior secondary years (Years 11 and 12) in an ATC. Does the answer to E289_07 imply that the Department thinks that the AGSRC secondary figure is more appropriate? If so, how will the Colleges meet liabilities for superannuation, recreation, sick, long service and other leave, depreciation and debt? And if the Department prefers to use AGSRC figures as the point of comparison, will it use these figures rather than the MCEETYA accrual figures in any future comparison with the recurrent costs of government schools, and advise the Minister accordingly?</p>
E525_07	Wong	SG	1.1	Written	<p>Non-government schools funding Refer to the answer to Question No. E303_7 Please provide these data in Excel format, as soon as possible. This information should include all the rows and columns as set out in E307_7. Confirm that the updated figures will now be the final figures for 2006, and 2005. Please advise the total \$m differences between the updated figures and those in E303_07, disaggregated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment changes • Supplementation changes • New and closing schools • Other (please describe).
E526_07	Wong	SG	1/1.3	Written	<p>Chaplains for schools - The Department has advised that funding under this program will be provided to individual schools. Please confirm this. Please advise the employment arrangements for the people employed under this program. Which entity will be the employer in government schools?: school council? Principal? State department; other (e.g. Scripture Union?) Confirm that these entities will be responsible for the actions of the chaplains and liable for any civil or criminal allegations or charges?. Will the Commonwealth be mandating any specific employment conditions, e.g. AWAs? Provide the final guidelines for the program as soon as possible.</p>
E527_07	Wong	SG	1/1.3	Written	<p>Review of Additional Funding for Non-government sector capital. Confirm that a contract of around \$35,000 has been let to Erebus International on this topic, for reporting by 30 November 2006? Reasons for this project? What is expected – more funding for non-government schools? Will there be a similar project for capital needs in government schools? Please provide details of the project's terms of reference, methodology, resources, etc.</p>

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E528_07	Wong	SG	1/1.3	Written	<p>Reading Assistance voucher programme. Confirm that a contract has been let to Curriculum Corporation for over \$7 million, to manage this program. Will the Corporation ensure that there will be a strong role for State and Territory authorities? How much will this cost? And how much of the \$7 million will go to these authorities? Or will they have to find the extra resources themselves? Or from program funds? Please provide details of the project's terms of reference, methodology, resources, etc.</p>
E529_07	Wong	SG	1/1.2	Written	<p>Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Programme 1. Please provide, in Excel format, total \$m allocated over each of the years 2005 to 2008 for the following elements, for each state and territory, and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately: (a) Schools Grants element a. Recurrent sub-element b. Per capita sub-element (b) Non-government centres support element (c) National Projects. 2. Please advise the breakdown in funding under the Schools Grants element as in 1 (a) above for: a. Students with disabilities in: i. special schools ii. regular schools b. Literacy and numeracy programs c. English as a second language programs 3. Please provide details of the specific projects funded to date under the National Projects element in 1(c) above, including purposes, grantees, amount and outcomes.</p>
E530_07	Wong	SG	1/1.2	Written	<p>English as a Second Language (New Arrivals) Please provide, in Excel format, updated data for the ESL (New Arrivals) program for each of the years 2005 to 2008, as follows: (a) for each state and territory, and for government, Catholic and independent schools. a. Total student numbers supported by the program b. \$ per capita c. total \$m. (b) for the student numbers in (a) above, please provide details of their country of origin.</p>
E531_07	Wong	SG	1/1.2	Written	<p>Country Areas Programme: Please provide, in Excel format, details of the types of funding project supported under the Country Areas Programme, for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008 for: (a) curriculum enhancement (b) information and and communication technology (c) professional development (d) promotion of the Country Areas Program (e) school support (f) purchase of tangible items (e.g. computers, musical instruments, etc).</p>

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E532_07	Wong	SG	1/1.2	Written	<p>1. Please provide, in Excel format, total funding allocated (\$m) under the Languages program, for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008.</p> <p>2. Please advise the language areas funded under the program, including the \$m allocated under each language area for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008</p>
E533_07	Wong	SG	1/1.3	Written	<p>Please provide, in Excel format, total funding allocated (\$m) under the Boosting Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics Teaching Programme, for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008.</p>
E534_07	Wong	SG	1	Written	<p>1. Please provide, in Excel format, total funding allocated (\$m) under each of the elements of the Quality Outcomes Programme, for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008 (or the appropriate financial years): (a) quality outcomes (b) values education and civics and citizenship (c) national school drug education strategy (d) quality teacher programme.</p> <p>2. For the quality outcomes element, as in 1 (a) above, please list the projects and consultants funded, the purposes of the projects and their outcomes.</p> <p>3. For the Quality Teacher programme, as in 1 (d) above, please provide in Excel format a breakdown of the funding provided, for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008 for the priority areas nominated for this programme, including: (a) literacy, numeracy, mathematics (b) science (c) vocational education (d) information technology (e) safe schools (f) professional standards (g) gifted and talented children (h) education of students with particular learning requirements (i) values education (and civics and citizenship separately) (j) teaching and school leadership quality (k) other (please describe).</p>
E535_07	Marshall & Nettle	SG		EWRE 116	<p>Mr Powell—Yes, where there is access to chaplaincy services in one form or another. Senator MARSHALL—So you have done an analysis of that? Mr Powell—We have done a preliminary analysis of that. Senator MARSHALL—Can you provide that to the committee? Mr Powell—I do not have that with me.</p>
E536_07	Marshall	SG		EWRE 120/121	<p>Senator MARSHALL—Can you take that on notice? Can you provide to the committee with what you expect it to cost, how many officers will be involved and over what period of time? Ms Paul—We can tell you what we expect. Obviously the administration load goes up, particularly when the applications first come in, and we can lay that out for you too.</p>

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E537_07	Marshall	SG		EWRE 121 (1)	<p>Senator MARSHALL—But there are lots of examples of the government actually attaching strings to this sort of money on the basis that employment arrangements have to be of a particular sort. So, given the policy directions you are working under, will that be a condition of employment for the chaplains? Ms Paul—That has not been an issue so far, but it is a matter which obviously will be settled as we do the guidelines.</p> <p>Senator MARSHALL—Could you take that on notice and advise the committee accordingly?</p> <p>Ms Paul—It will be part of what we consider in the guidelines, so in the same sort of time frame as the question on notice. I am very happy to do both, but you will be seeing the guidelines too.</p> <p>Senator MARSHALL—My point is that it may not be a matter for the guidelines. You may well be under a policy directive to apply to this sort of money, these sorts of employment conditions, as has been the case in many other instances. If it is a matter for the guidelines, yes, answer it that way. But if you find that you are bound by other policy directions before that, I would appreciate your advising the committee as soon as you know.</p>
E538_07	Nettle	SG	1	EWRE 121 (2)	<p>School Chaplains: Senator NETTLE—It may need to be on notice, but it would be appreciated if you could let us know of any other program where, in order to apply for funds, you have to provide a list of staff that the minister gets to veto.</p>
E539_07	Wong	SG	1	EWRE 124	<p>Senator WONG—Can I just follow up one question, which is No. E303 7, which was my request previously to update the data and tables previously provided? In your answer you indicated that you would need to do so later in 2006.</p> <p>Mr Evans—The reason for that answer is that an announcement on the supplementation arrangements that are to apply for 2006 has yet to be finalised, so in that sense the figures are correct as at the time.</p> <p>Senator WONG—I understand that. But you have indicated that you could update it later in 2006. It is now many months later. We are in November. Are you able to provide an updated answer?</p> <p>Mr Evans—I am not expecting the supplementation for 2006 to be announced until probably mid-November. If you like, I can take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Yes, that would be good, because 16 December is the cut-off date,</p>

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E540_07	Wong	SG		EWRE 128 & 129	<p>Senator WONG—Can I go again to the funding agreement for schools? Does the Commonwealth funding agreement with schools require education authorities to collect data from parents such as language background, socioeconomic and location?</p> <p>Mr Evans—I will say no, but if, when I am checking up, I find it is, then I will take it as a question on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Are you aware, for example, of additional information being required under the Australian government's Schools Assistance (Learning Together—Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act and the 2005-2008 triennial funding agreement that requires additional information in relation to languages spoken at home, parental education levels and occupations?</p> <p>Ms Paul—I do not think that is a requirement of the act, but we will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Why would some educational authorities or states and territories be of the view that that was required?</p> <p>Ms Paul—I do not know. We will have to take it on notice I think...</p> <p>Ms Paul—Not that I know of, but that is what I would like to check. I am saying that I would be surprised if we have required certain actions by parents.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Actually, it is by—</p> <p>Ms Paul—By states—from parents. You had a chain there which had a requirement from us on both parties, whereas I think that the testing regime is as agreed by all jurisdictions. I am not sure that it goes to precisely how it is collected, but I am happy to clarify that.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Could you take that on notice?</p>
E541_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	Has there been any activity DEST is aware of to advance the nomination of other waste sites in the NT?
E542_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	Has either DEST or the Minister received any formal request or nomination for another site?
E543_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>In relation to the Muckaty site, has:</p> <p>a) Any Commonwealth agency or contractor done any analysis or assessment work in relation to the Muckaty site?</p> <p>b) Are you aware of any reports of scientific teams perhaps seismologists looking at the Muckaty site or others in the Barkly region in the last few weeks?</p> <p>c) Are they there on the commonwealth government's behalf for any reason?</p> <p>d) Based on your experience from the current site assessments how long would be needed to examine a newly nominated site?</p> <p>e) Would you encourage work on a site before nomination to see if it might be suitable?</p> <p>f) What is the status of the potential site at Muckaty Station?</p>
E544_07	Wong	ANSTO		Written	Please provide funding details over the forward estimates (4 years) for all ANSTO appropriations, broken down to the output level as set out on p.201 of the current PBS, with further detail for all of the programs within each of those outputs.
E545_07	Wong	ANSTO		Written	How long has ANSTO been insured by the British Insurance (Atomic Energy) Committee? Is ANSTO's policy reinsured by another group? Is British Insurance reinsured by another group?

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E546_07	Wong	ANSTO		Written	<p>Please provide:</p> <p>a) An update on what stage the OPAL commissioning process is at</p> <p>b) The current timeline for operation</p> <p>c) The total cost incurred so far for OPAL</p> <p>d) The total expected cost to complete OPAL project</p> <p>e) The original budgeted cost for the new reactor</p> <p>f) Whether ARPANSA's additional licence conditions are unusual or based on ANSTO's previous hiccups with operational incidents.</p>
E547_07	Wong	ANSTO		Written	<p>In its response to E333_07, ANSTO failed to answer the following questions: "Please provide details. What is the value of ANSTO's insurance arrangements with Lloyds, i.e. the value and nature of the insurance policy and the annual premium?"</p> <p>a) Please answer this question.</p> <p>b) Have the insurance costs for ANSTO facilities increased since 2001, and if so by how much?</p>
E548_07	Crossin	ANSTO		Written	<p>a) Is 2011 still the expected date of return for waste from reprocessed spent fuel rods from the La Hague facility in France?</p> <p>b) How many shipments over what time period will be required to repatriate all the Australian nuclear material?</p> <p>c) What is the latest time that this complete return of material from France must occur by?</p> <p>d) Have arrangements been made with the relevant shipping and transport providers to facilitate these shipments?</p>
E549_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>According to an answer provided by The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) in answer to Senate estimates questions ARPANSA says Australia currently exports roughly 11,000 tons of uranium and that if it were all enriched it would produce 1000 tons of exportable enriched uranium and 90% or 10,000 tons would be depleted uranium waste.</p> <p>It further states "The shallow ground burial facilities currently proposed in Australia are intended for the disposal of smaller quantities than this. Disposal of waste from a uranium enrichment facility would require a disposal facility of a different type than those that have been proposed to date. (ARPANSA Senate estimates answer EO6-259)</p> <p>Why wouldn't the proposed dump be suitable and what sort of facility might be needed?</p>
E550_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>What analysis and assessment has been undertaken to date re transport options and corridors for the movement of material from the ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights to the proposed national dump? What is the timeline and mechanism for such work?</p>
E551_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>What further security and safety assessments have been made in relation to the planned facility and the transport of radioactive material since the last Estimates?</p>
E552_07	Crossin	SCG		Written	<p>What material and documentation has the Commonwealth provided to State, Territory and local governments and security/emergency service agencies in relation to the facility project and related transport proposals?</p>
E553_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>What consultation has occurred with affected Aboriginal land owners and/or their representative bodies in relation to the waste facility plan since last Estimates?</p>
E554_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>What communications/public information materials and initiatives and polling are planned in relation to the waste facility project?</p> <p>What budget allocation has been made for these and when are these expected to be implemented?</p> <p>What agencies, consultants and contractors are involved in this work?</p>

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E555_07	Crossin	SCG	3	Written	<p>Has DEST provided advice to government on the storage of waste from a nuclear power station?</p> <p>Would the proposed NT dump be suitable for such waste?</p> <p>Would waste from a nuclear power plant be handled the same way or differ in radioactivity from waste from the OPAL reactor?</p>
E556_07	Wong	SCG	3.1	Written	<p>Could DEST please provide an update on the CSIRO triennial funding process, including what stage negotiations are at now, timeline for negotiations and final agreement?</p> <p>Have DEST or the Minister requested analyses and other documents from CSIRO in relation to the triennium process? Which documents? Please provide a copy.</p>
E557_07	Wong	SCG	3	Written	<p>Backing Australia's Ability 2 provides the following Funding Overview for the Major National Research Facilities Programme.</p> <p>(Source: Backing Australia's Ability Funding Overview)</p> <p>\$m 2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06</p> <p>MNRF prog 5.0 20 30 50 50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the money spent on MNRFs in line with the BAA2 overview? What was spent in each year? • Why does BAA 2 outline \$155 million when E390_07 totals \$152.637 million for the MNRFs? What's the discrepancy? • How this \$152.6 million sits with the Funding Overview in the Backing Australia's Ability material - BAA gives total funding at \$155 million. • E390_07 lists one-off funding for 6 MNRFs in 2006-07. What has happened to the other 9 MNRFs that did not receive one-off funding? Have they closed? Have the staff lost their jobs? What has happened to the facilities at each? What happened to the staff? Will they receive NCRIS funding? If some of them do receive NCRIS funding, what happens to them until the money comes through? Please give a report on each of the 9 that did not receive one-off funding.
E558_07	Wong	IRSG	3	Written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen after 31 March 2007 to the 6 MNRFs currently funded until that date? If they do not receive NCRIS funding, will they close? Will Australia lose that capability? Please provide a direct answer to these. • How did DEST decide to give one-off funding to those particular six MNRFs and not the rest? Was the one-off funding always planned? Or is it because of a delay in NCRIS funding coming on stream?

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E559_07	Wong	SCG	3.2	Written	<p>E389_07 itemises the expenditure over the forward estimates.</p> <p>a) Have any additional nuclear dump sites have been nominated? Please provide details.</p> <p>b) If DEST is keeping site nominations confidential, why is this the case? At whose request was this decision made?</p> <p>c) What is the current timeline for completion of construction and operation of the nuclear waste dump?</p> <p>d) What stage are the siting studies are up to? What has occurred so far at each site?</p> <p>e) When will the siting studies be completed?</p> <p>f) Does DEST receive monthly reports from the contractor? If not monthly, how often does DEST receive reports from the contractor and on what dates have they been received so far? Will DEST provide a copy of each report?</p> <p>g) What is the size of the contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff? How much has been paid to them already?</p> <p>h) Please provide a breakdown of how will the funding to Parsons Brinckerhoff be provided. That is, is there an introductory/sign-on payment, further payments based on performance or timelines, completion payments, bonus payments etc?</p> <p>i) Why was the environmental impact assessment delayed until will 2007-08 given it was meant to occur in 2006-07? Does this delay the rest of the process?</p> <p>j) Please provide a list of the consultants receiving the approximately \$1 million in funding over three years. Have all of these been selected? If not, for what purposes does DEST expect to engage consultants? What is the projected cost of each consultancy? What has been spent on consultants so far?</p> <p>k) Will the \$1.76 million listed for siting studies all go to Parsons Brinckerhoff or are there other costs involved? Please provide breakdown.</p> <p>l) What does DEST mean by Communications in E389_07. Is this advertising to promote the waste dump? Please provide breakdown of TV buys, newspaper ads and other items that this money will be spent on, including budgeted costs of each item. What has been spent on communications so far?</p> <p>m) E389_07 lists nearly \$900,000 that's set to be spent on "Other". Please provide a full breakdown of what is included in "other", with costs associated with each item.</p>
E560_07	Crossin	SCG	3	EWRE 131	<p>Senator CROSSIN— Can you take on notice for me, please, the dates that they visited the sites and how long they were there for?</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—could you also tell me who went to those sites and who they may have spoken to?</p> <p>Ms Borthwick—We will take it on notice.</p>
E561_07	Crossin	SCG	3	EWRE 132	<p>Senator CROSSIN— Do you have from Parsons Brinckerhoff a list of the types of people going to these sites and the expertise that they have?</p> <p>Mr Hesterman—We have a schedule of the personnel that will be working on this contract for us with Parsons Brinckerhoff.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Can you provide that to the committee as well, please?</p>
E562_07	Crossin	SCG	3	EWRE 132	<p>Senator CROSSIN—What is the total amount of the contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff?</p> <p>Mr Hesterman— \$1.65 million including GST.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN— How is that \$1.65 million paid?</p> <p>Mr Hesterman—It is paid on activities to date. They provide reports indicating what activities they have undertaken on the technical assessments, and the invoices are paid according to that.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN—Can you take on notice a detailed breakdown of money paid to date and for what purpose?</p> <p>Ms Borthwick—Certainly.</p>

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E563_07	Crossin	SCG	3	EWRE 134	<p>Senator CROSSIN—Is there any particular written memorandum of agreement about this? Mr Irwin—We have not seen one. We merely had it communicated to us that they would be seeking to run those processes concurrently. How they do that— Senator CROSSIN—Is that in the form of a letter? Ms Borthwick—Can we take that on notice ...? Senator CROSSIN—Yes. If it is in the form of written communication, can you provide that to this committee.</p>
E564_07	Wong	CSG	All	EWRE 139	<p>Senator WONG—Could you briefly explain to me the increase in total staffing levels on page 181. Ms Paul—They relate to two things: machinery of government change, particularly ANTA that had about 80-plus positions, and budget funded new initiatives. They are the reasons. Ms Paul—Budget funded new initiatives—new initiatives arising from the election and the budget. Senator WONG—What component relates to each of them? Ms Paul—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
E565_07	Wong	CSG		EWRE 140	<p>Senator WONG—How many temporary placements? Ms Paul—I will take that on notice. r. Senator WONG—Approximately how long for? Ms Paul—A month or two at a time. A recruitment action has been going on. Ms Pearce—I think there were three people. Senator WONG—So there have been three, in addition to the two DLOs, over the course of the calendar year. Would that be correct? Ms Paul—I think so. Senator WONG—There have been three DEST— Ms Paul—Over the calendar year. Senator WONG—There have been three separate DEST staff members— Ms Pearce—Three separate DEST staff members. Senator WONG—who have been seconded there for a— Ms Pearce—Temporary arrangement. Senator WONG—Can you advise the dates of those periods of secondment? Would you have to take that on notice? Ms Pearce—I will take that on notice. Senator WONG—Are you saying it is about a month for each secondment? Ms Paul—Pending recruitment action in each instance. Senator WONG—I understand it is pending recruitment action. Ms Paul—My recollection would be between one and two months in each case, but we can take that on</p>
E566_07	Wong	CSG		EWRE 141	<p>Senator WONG—How long have you been in your position, Ms Paul? Ms Paul—Since 2004. Ms Pearce—There is provision under the MOP(S) Act for this to occur. Senator WONG—Yes, I am aware of that. I am just asking how often you have seconded three staff to what are essentially personal political adviser positions. Ms Paul—Possibly, but I would have to take it on notice.</p>

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E567_07	Wong	CSG		EWRE 141	Senator WONG—On notice are you able to provide me with any details of any further advertising campaigns about which I have not asked already in the context of our previous discussion? Senator WONG—And the funding allocation including estimated and actual to date?
E568_07	Ludwig	CSG		Written	With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate 1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament? 2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate: a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by. b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide: i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation. ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe? c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901? If so, could the department provide: i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension. ii. The reason given for granting the extension. iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted. iv. A copy of the Minister's statement. d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the i. explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there provide: agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department being any formal extension granted. ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling the agency's Annual Report
E569_07	Ludwig	CSG		Written	With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Minister's on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide: 1. The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06). 2. The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at. 3. The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities. 4. The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3.
E570_07	Wong	CSG		Written	1. DEST answer to question e414_07, seeking an update to e852_06, answered that "The answer to E852_05 includes both descriptive and financial information for each of DEST's reportable programmes. Updating financial information depends on the actual outcome for 2005-06 reported in DEST's Financial Statements. Now that DEST's 2005-06 Annual Report has been publish, can an answer to e414_07 (updating e852_05) please be provided?
E571_07	Wong	CSG		Written	DEST Annual report 2005-06, p.165. What is the Department's target for its current ratio (current assets to current liabilities)? What has been the Department's current ratio for each year since 2001?

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E572_07	Wong	CSG		Written	Of the 513 Questions placed on Notice at the Budget 2006 Estimates hearings which were not answered by the Committee's due date, and using the Senate Committee's Question numbering system, please advise a) the date each proposed answer was first provided to the Minister's office, b) whether that answer was forwarded to the Committee, or returned to the Department/agency for revision, and c) in the latter case, the date on which the revised answer was submitted to the Minister's office.
E573_07	Wong	CSG		Written	For each of the 2006 Annual Reports from the Department and the Agencies in the portfolio, please advise the date each was submitted to the Minister's office for approval
E574_07	Wong	CSG		Written	For each of the 2006 Annual Reports from the Department and the Agencies in the portfolio, please advise whether the Minister or her office suggested, requested or directed any amendment/s
E575_07	Wong	CSG		Written	Refer to p.181 of the DEST 2005/06 Annual Report, see notes c), d) and e) at bottom of page, which notes that 14 SES staff were on Higher Duties Allowance at the time. Given that this is a snapshot rather than time-series, does this situation of 14 SES staff being on HDA indicate a higher than normal usage of HDA for SES officers over the year? How does DEST compare with SES HAD usage across the Australian Public Service?
E576_07	Wong	CSG		Written	Please provide figures on staff turnover over the past 3 years, with percentage annual turnover at each APS and SES level, and comparison figures for the rest of the APS
E577_07	Wong	CSG		Written	In the past three years, what studies has the Department undertaken itself, or commissioned to be undertaken by a consultant, on reasons for separation for all staff exiting employment with the department? What are the results of those studies, and can a full copy of the report/s be made available to the committee?
E578_07	Wong	CSG		Written	In the past three years, what studies has each Agency in the Portfolio undertaken itself, or commissioned to be undertaken by a consultant, on reasons for separation for all staff exiting employment with the department? What are the results of those studies, and can a full copy of the report/s be made available to the committee?
E579_07	Wong	CSG	3	Written	Please provide funding details over the forward estimates (4 years) for all Science Group appropriations, broken down to the output level as set out on pp.86-89 of the current PBS, with further detail for all of the programs within each of those outputs. For example, I am requesting out-year funding for all of the Australia-China Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, not simply the new funding set out at p.88, and for all the other components of the International Scientific Linkages program. I am seeking similar levels of program detail across the Science Group
E580_07	Wong	CSG	3	Written	In the DEST Annual Report 2005-06, the Total Administered expenses line item was underspent by \$20,754,000. Please account for this difference fully, including a full breakdown of areas within each Output where actual expenditure was lower than budgeted, including the amounts underspent in each area? In the DEST Annual Report 2005-06, Total Price of Departmental Outputs went over budget by \$20,114,000 (Budgeted \$93,218,000 vs. Actual \$113,332,000). Please account for this difference fully, including a full breakdown of areas within each Output where actual expenditure was lower than budgeted, including the amounts underspent in each area?

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E581_07	Carr	VET		EWRE 79	<p>Senator CARR—Do each of the councils have a different board structure? You say they are both companies and unions, but are they the same size or do they vary in size?</p> <p>Ms Cross—It varies from ISC to ISC.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Are you able in another table to provide me with a breakdown of who is on those?</p> <p>Ms Cross—Yes, that will take slightly longer, but we can give you a list of all of the board members.</p>
E582_07	Carr	VET		EWRE 94	<p>Senator CARR—Is the National Retail Association still a large RTO?</p> <p>Ms Cross—We would have to check that on the National Training Information Service.</p> <p>Senator CARR—You do not know? You do not know if the National Retail Association is an RTO or are you quibbling with the word 'large'?</p> <p>Mr Davidson—Well, there are in excess of 4,000 RTOs in Australia, and I am not aware of each individual one.</p>
E583_07	Wong	CSG		EWRE 99 & 100	<p>Senator WONG—So the three components, Ms Paul, were the career advice, the Australian Technical Colleges and the Skills for the Future package.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Are there any other estimated costs? We have got \$3 million, \$13.5 million, an additional \$3 million and \$600,000.</p> <p>Ms Pearce—I am not aware of any other components.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Thank you. What is the expenditure to date?</p> <p>Ms Pearce—I do not have the expenditure to date. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG—What about expenditure—I cannot remember what the accounting term is—that is actually committed? So you are in a contract but you have not been billed, such as a media buy where you have not been billed for the—</p> <p>Ms Paul—We can get that for you. We can get what has been spent to date and what has been committed.</p> <p>Senator WONG—That would be useful</p>
E584_07	Wong	CSG		EWRE 101	<p>Senator WONG—Ms Pearce, with the Worthington Di Marzio work, presumably there was a report provided to DEST?</p> <p>Ms Pearce—That is correct.</p> <p>Senator WONG—One, two, three or more?</p> <p>Ms Pearce—I think there are several, yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Are you able to provide those to the committee?</p> <p>Ms Pearce—I will take that on notice, senator.</p>
E585_07	Wong	CSG		EWRE 102	<p>Perhaps on notice you can explain to me why the funding of the research et cetera is consistent with the administered appropriation in output 1.4.</p>
E586_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 104	<p>a) Senator WONG—Are there any New Apprenticeships centres, NACs, which are co-located with a Job Network?</p> <p>Ms White—I do not know the answer to that. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG ...How many conflict of interest management plans have you required of New Apprenticeships centres?</p> <p>Ms White – Every Australian Apprenticeships Centre has to have a conflict of interest management plan.</p> <p>b) Senator WONG – How many are also Job Network Centres</p> <p>Ms White—I'm sorry but I do not have that information with me but several of them are</p>

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E587_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 104 & 105	Senator WONG—Which centres have been visited in Victoria by DEST staff? Ms White—I would have to take that on notice.
E588_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 105	Senator WONG--Since 1 July, what visits have been made to any New Apprenticeships centres which are also operated by or have a relationship with Job Network providers? Ms White—I will take that on notice. The day-to-day operations are handled by our state officers. I would need to go to them for the details. Senator WONG—So since 1 July 1 you have not conducted any formal audits but you might have visited the sites? Is that correct? Ms White—That is correct. Senator WONG—So you will tell me how many site visits there have been? Ms White—I will.
E589_07	Wong	PAL		EWRE 106	Senator WONG—Can you tell me what has been happening there since 1 July. Mr Baker—What I am aware of at the moment is that we have had some audit activity in relation to an organisation in Queensland. Some of our staff visited an organisation the week before last. I am afraid that I do not have any further information and I will have to take that on notice.
E590_07	Wong	PAL		EWRE 106	Mr Baker—Every year our audit and business assurance committee approves an annual audit plan. The 2006 annual audit plan was approved in August this year. There is still some work outstanding from previous audit plan for 2005-06 period that may have fallen into the 2006 audit plan. The point I am trying to make is that any visits by DEST officers to organisations in Queensland could be related to the previous audit plan. Senator WONG—Does the particular organisation still have offices in Victoria as well as Queensland? Mr Baker—I am not aware of that from the information I have got in front of me. Senator WONG—Does anyone in the room know anything more about this audit? Ms Paul—I think we will have to take it on notice.
E591_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 107	Perhaps on notice, could Ms White and Mr Baker advise me about what audits and/or visits have been undertaken in respect of New Apprenticeships centres or Australian Apprenticeships centres since the commencement of the current contract where there is a relationship with a Job Network provider?
E592_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 107	Senator WONG—I will now turn to E138-07. One of the things I asked for was New Apprenticeships and related workers in each ASCO category by federal electorate. You have not answered that. The answer provided was: Where that publicly available data does not support the provision of the answer by requested categories, the answer has not been provided. This format of question has previously been asked and answered—provided by the minister in the House and provided in response to my supplementary estimates question of E802-06. What is the problem with providing it now? Ms McKinnon—My apologies. The problem was I was fairly new in the job. It was not until I spoke to Ms White after my question had been submitted that I realised that you could ask NCVET for the data to be searched by my staff. I am happy to find that.

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E593_07	Wong	PAL		EWRE 108	<p>Senator WONG—There was a freedom of information request from The Australian newspaper which sought access to essentially the sorts of documents I have just outlined. I will quote from the letter from DEST refusing to supply anything. Access was sought to:</p> <p>... any review, assessment evaluation or report completed in the last 12 months on (a) the success of the New apprentices scheme and (b) on the need to improve skilled training in Australia and any shortfall in government funding or support in order to improve the number of skilled workers in Australia.</p> <p>The refusal of the FOI request was on the following basis:</p> <p>Thorough searches of the Department's records have been undertaken and these have failed to locate any records covered by your request. I have therefore concluded that the information you have requested is not in the possession of this Department.</p> <p>Senator WONG—I am happy for you to take on notice a response as to why that FOI request was rejected.</p>
E594_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 110	<p>Senator WONG—What proportion of the allocated \$290 million is for advertising or marketing?</p> <p>Ms Wall—I would not have that figure as a total. I would have to go back to each of the individual funding agreements to see what the colleges have identified.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Would that be the only marketing component in the funding agreement?</p> <p>Ms Wall—That is right.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Typically, what proportion is it? Is it a small amount or a big amount?</p> <p>Ms Wall—It is quite small.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Less than five per cent? I am just trying to get a sense of it.</p> <p>Ms Wall—I would need to check this but, from memory, it might be anything from \$20,000 to \$500,000.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Maybe you could take that on notice and perhaps you could indicate in relation to which funding agreements.</p>
E595_07	Wong	VET		EWRE 110 & 111	<p>Senator WONG—Is a company known as Austool involved in the proposed technical college or the technical college there?...</p> <p>Senator WONG—So, as far as you are aware, they are not part of that?</p> <p>Ms Johnston—As far as I am aware, but we will double check that and make sure.</p> <p>Senator WONG—Are you aware of any financial difficulties faced by that organisation?</p> <p>Ms Johnston—The expression of interest stage was not a formal tenderer process or proposal process, so there would not have been any investigations of those sorts of financial things.</p> <p>Senator WONG—The minister's press release of September 2005 mentions Austool, the Australian Centre for Tool Making Innovation, as a member of the winning consortium.</p> <p>Ms Johnston—I stand corrected, if it was a member of the consortium.</p> <p>Senator WONG—I just want to clarify this. Is it correct that, to your knowledge, this is the winning consortium, and there has been no change to the members of it?</p> <p>Ms Johnston—We have not been advised of that.</p> <p>Ms Paul—It sounds like we need to check</p>

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E596_07	Marshall	VET		Written	<p>a) Why was the NECA/DEST REPORT 'Skills Shortage Project – Summary, May 2006' commissioned?</p> <p>b) What was the purpose of the research underlying this report?</p> <p>c) How much did this research cost and who undertook it?</p> <p>d) What process was used to determine who would undertake this research?</p> <p>e) Why didn't this report's steering committee include more State Training Authorities and Industry bodies?</p> <p>f) What involvement did the steering Committee Members (Steve Balzary, Peter Glynn, Peter Buck, Robyn Norris, Erik Scholz, Neville Palmer, Frank Russo, Steve Griffiths, David Madson, Brett Conran, Wes McKnight, Ken Gardner, Alan Major, Neil Miller, NSW TAFE, Ian Millner, Milcom Communications, Suzie Hewlett, Leela Darvall) have in the preparation of the report and the endorsement of the report findings?</p> <p>g) Is DEST aware of any of this steering committee as named in the report not being involved with the report's preparation or production?</p> <p>h) Does DEST require that research reports that purport to have a reference or steering committee to validate the process of research undertaken require that the steering group officially endorse the report?</p> <p>i) If so, has this report met the DEST protocols for development and sign off?</p> <p>j) Does DEST believe that the body funded for the report is sufficiently qualified to ensure a wide array of industry stakeholders?</p> <p>k) What evaluation does DEST undertake of reports commissioned such as the NECA/DEST 'Skills Shortage Project – Summary, May 2006' Report?</p> <p>l) Does this evaluation affect future funding allocations or tenders for research projects or reports?</p> <p>m) Does DEST believe the assertion in the report (Page 1) that there is a lack of new and emerging technologies in the National Training Package revised for electrotechnology?</p> <p>n) Does DEST believe the assertion in the report (Page 1) that the 'requirements defined for an electrical license do not align with the work being undertaken by most electricians' given the regulatory requirements for electricians are based on the 66 essential capabilities coming out of electrical safety requirements?</p> <p>o) Does DEST believe the assertion in the report (Page 3) that Philippine trained lineworkers 'do not meet the regulator's requirements to work in Queensland... but were able to work as lineworkers in Queensland' is correct?</p> <p>p) What happened in that particular case?</p>
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E597_07	Marshall	VET		Written	<p>NCVER (2006) 'Training and Skills in the Electrical and Communications Industry' Report</p> <p>Was this a DEST funded report?</p> <p>If not, why does the DEST logo appear on the report?</p> <p>Why was this report commissioned?</p> <p>What was the purpose of the research underlying this report?</p> <p>How much did this research cost and who undertook it?</p> <p>What process was used to determine who would undertake this research?</p> <p>Did DEST or NCVER require that this research report establish a steering group to officially endorse the report?</p> <p>If so, how did it ensure the process of validation was confirmed?</p> <p>If not, how did DEST or NCVER ensure the reports validity with the community of industry stakeholders it purported to report on?</p> <p>Why didn't this report review literature or statistics from State Training Authorities or DEST?</p> <p>Why has the report relied on a limited number of industry elites all centred in major metropolitan centres?</p> <p>Have the findings of the report been established and documented in other reports or Government publications?</p> <p>If so, why is there duplication?</p> <p>Does DEST and NCVER support the findings/assertions of the report?</p> <p>What action has been taken in light of this report's findings?</p> <p>Is the publication promoted and distributed by NCVER and DEST?</p> <p>If so, on what basis is it reported and distributed (eg as a National Industry Report etc)?</p>
E598_07	Crossin	VET		Written	<p>The Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2005 transferred some \$10.9 million funds from IESIP where it was quarantined for Indigenous institutions, to the Commonwealth – State Training Fund Agreement under the Skilling Australia's Workforce Act 2005. This had potential disadvantages in terms of funding to 4 independent Indigenous education institutes.</p> <p>a) Can you give me a breakdown of total Commonwealth funding provided to each of the 4 following independent Indigenous education institutions for 2004, 2005 and 2006 , the four being Tranby College; Institute for Aboriginal Development; Aboriginal Dance Theatre and Tauondi College in Adelaide?</p> <p>b) From which program(s) did this funding come?</p> <p>c) Can you also provide details of when funds releases were made to each in 2006, and the amounts on each occasion?</p> <p>d)Tranby College report no funds released until May 2006. Why was this delay?</p>
E599_07	Crossin	VET		Written	<p>a) Was funding prior to 2006 on a quadrennial basis for all of them?</p> <p>b) Is it now on an annual basis and if so why this change, especially considering factors such as Tranby College offering 2 year courses?</p> <p>c) If an institute is offering 2 year courses is there any reason that they cannot be given at least 2 years funding to enable them to surety of course completion?</p>
E600_07	Crossin	VET		Written	<p>a)Do ALL applicants for these funds now have to apply annually?</p> <p>b) If not then why is it different for Tranby?</p> <p>C)What meetings or discussions were held by DEST officers with these 4 institutions (Tranby College; Institute for Aboriginal Development; Aboriginal Dance Theatre and Tauondi College in Adelaide) to explain the changes? Can you provide dates and locations?</p>

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E601_07	Crossin	VET		Written	<p>a) Could you provide the enrolment figures for each of these 4 institutions (Tranby College; Institute for Aboriginal Development; Aboriginal Dance Theatre and Tauondi College in Adelaide) for 2004, 2005 and 2006?</p> <p>b) Do you have any records showing the Indigenous enrolment figures for other institutions being funded from the same program as these 4 Indigenous institutions (Tranby College; Institute for Aboriginal Development; Aboriginal Dance Theatre and Tauondi College in Adelaide)?</p>
E602_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>In 2005, or the latest year for which full year enrolment figures are available, how many students were</p> <p>a) Enrolled in an Associate Degree in</p> <p>i. TAFE institutes</p> <p>ii. Other registered training providers? Please specify by institute and provider.</p> <p>b) For each of these, how many students were in publicly funded places?</p> <p>c) What was the level of Commonwealth support per Associate Degree place?</p> <p>d) Were these students eligible for HECS-HELP? If so what was the rate of student contribution?</p> <p>e) Were these students eligible for FEE-HELP?</p>
E603_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>Has the Department undertaken any analysis, or been involved in any interdepartmental working groups or committees analysing, the extent of workforce shortages in the child care industry? If so, who conducted this analysis? What were the findings? Has the Department developed any policy or initiatives to increase the number of Australians studying for early childhood degrees or diplomas?</p>
E604_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>National Training Complaints hotline – please update answer to question 154_06 with the latest available data: How many calls has the hotline received since it was established in June 2003? (Please break down calls received by month). Please provide annual expenditure on the hotline in the years 2003/04, 2004/05 and budgeted for 2005/06. How many staff are allocated to this initiative?</p>
E605_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>Regarding the Government's Skills for the future program, and specifically the 'Work Skills Vouchers',</p> <p>a) For what purposes and costs can the voucher be used for?</p> <p>b) Will the voucher extend to cover items such as transport and accommodation costs?</p>
E606_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>a) Under what Budget Outcome and Output Group will the Government's 'Skills for the Future' package be funded?</p> <p>b) For each initiative included in the 'Skills for the Future' package what is the total administered and departmental costs in the current budget and across the forward estimate period?</p> <p>c) Will the value of the vouchers announced in the 'Skills for the Future' package be indexed? If so, for each voucher, what indexation factor will apply and on what date will the indexation occur</p>
E607_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>What arrangements will be available for providing potential students with information about the availability of suitable courses and about the level of labour market demand for various Certificate II qualifications?</p>
E608_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>a) Will the work skills voucher be able to be used in any Certificate II course, or will it be restricted to courses in areas of skills demand? If it is to be limited, what courses will be eligible and how will they be determined?</p> <p>b) What courses will be approved for use of the voucher? Will these courses be required to be accredited courses under the AQF?</p>

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E609_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>How will the Department determine approved providers for the Work Skills Voucher? Will all current TAFE and/or other registered training organisations be automatically approved or will they be required to undertake a separate approval process?</p> <p>Will schools be eligible to be approved?</p> <p>Will organisations not registered as training organisation with their relevant VET accreditation authority be approved by DEST to offer these vouchers?</p> <p>Regarding the Government's Skills for the future program, and specifically 'Business Skills Voucher for Apprentices',</p> <p>a) How will the Department determine approved providers for the Business Skills Voucher?</p> <p>b) Will all current TAFE and/or other registered training organisations be automatically approved or will they be required to undertake a separate approval process?</p> <p>c) Will organisations not registered as training organisation with their relevant VET accreditation authority be approved by DEST to offer these vouchers?</p>
E610_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>a) The voucher will be available to those who have 'no formal qualifications'. What formal qualifications preclude access to this voucher?</p> <p>b) What protections will be put in place to prevent approved providers increasing their course fees to take into account the full value of the vouchers?</p>
E611_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>Will there be a deadline for receipt of applications from students for vouchers? If not, how will the applications be prioritised against the stated criteria given that some "high" priority applications may be received after many lower priority applications have been received?</p>
E612_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>What mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that students are able to make use of their eligibility for a vouchers? For example, how does the Government propose to deal with the situation of potential students in rural areas where there may not be sufficient other eligible students to make the offering of a course attractive to an RTO?</p>
E613_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>What happens when a student receives a voucher but does not complete the course?</p>
E614_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>How many apprentices does the Department expect will take up this voucher in 2007?</p>
E615_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>What apprenticeships (and qualifications) will be eligible to attract the mature age apprentice wage subsidy?</p>
E616_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>Skills for the Future 'Incentives for Higher Level Technical Skills'</p> <p>Which Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications will be eligible to receive the new incentives? Please provide a complete list of eligible qualifications? If these are yet to be determined, by which date will they be determined and who will DEST be consulting in determining this list?</p>
E617_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>Apprenticeship Incentive Program</p> <p>Under what circumstances would an employer be ineligible to attract an incentive payment?</p>
E618_07	Wong	VET		Written	<p>In answer to previous questions, DEST revealed that ACCI was engaged on contract valued at \$100,000 for a project to address industrial relations barriers to the take-up of New Apprenticeships. Has the report been completed? What were the main findings? When the report be made publicly available? Can a copy be provided to the Committee? Has the Department awarded ACCI any further contracts to provide comment, analysis or evaluation on any other aspects of apprenticeship policy? If so please provide details of each contracts, including value, length, reporting date, and on what basis the tender was awarded.</p>

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E619_07	Wong	VET		Written	Please update answer to DEST Question No. E908_06 providing details of indexation under the Skilling Australia's Workforce Act for 2006.
E620_07	Wong	VET		Written	In answer to Question No. E119_07 regarding the Tools for Your Trade initiative the Department advised that it was 'currently undertaking data analysis to estimate the number of expected commencements in those qualifications' added to MODL in March 2006. Has this analysis been completed? Were the Industry Skills Councils involved in, or consulted by DEST, in the process of determining this data analysis? What are the total additional costs are expected to be incurred in the current budget year and across the forward estimate period by both the Tools for Your Trade Initiative and the Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship (please specify by program) by the addition of the 16 trades?
E621_07	Wong	VET		Written	Tools for Your Trade a) How many Australian Apprentices have received a toolkit? Please provide this data by State/Territory. b) How many Australian Apprentices have cancelled or withdrawn from their apprenticeship after receiving their toolkit? Please provide this data by State/Territory. c) Of these apprentices in (b), how many withdrew from their apprenticeship during the period where the toolkit was the property of their employer?
E622_07	Wong	VET		Written	Industry Skills Council a) What is the (a) length (including start and end dates), (b) total value of the contract between the Government and each of the 10 Industry Skills Councils? b) On what date was the final evaluation report of the Industry Skills Councils received by (a) the Department and (b) the Minister? c) Which persons and/or organisations external to the Government was the evaluation report on the Industry Skills Councils distributed? On what date was the report provided to each of the persons and/or organisations referred to above? d) From which persons and/or organisations did DEST seek opinion on the operations or evaluation of the Industry Skills Councils? What was the start and end date of these contracts? What was the total value of the contracts? e) Has the Department been in discussions with any other Industry Skills Councils seeking a deed underwriting their operations similar to the deed provided to Agri-Foods?
E623_07	Wong	VET		Written	What is the scope of the ANAO's audit of the Department's apprenticeship program? On what date does the Department expect the final audit report to be released?
E624_07	Wong	VET		Written	What is the latest available National Average funding per hour of vocational education and training as outlined in the Skilling Australia's Workforce Agreement?
E625_07	Wong	VET		Written	NCVER was commissioned to develop three tiers of qualifications according to cost – high, medium and low, to take effect from 1 January 2006. What qualifications are in each cost group? What percentage of total funded activity occurs in each cost tier?
E626_07	Wong	VET		Written	Has DEST's investigations unit conducted any investigations into the potential misuse of Certificates in Process Manufacturing?
E627_07	Wong	VET		Written	In the last 5 years, have any incentive payments been recovered, or recovery sought, from employers of apprentices in certificates I, II, III or IV in Process Manufacturing? If so, what was the amount of money recovered or sought? Have any of these cases been referred to the Police? If so, on what grounds is breach alleged?

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E628_07	Wong	VET		Written	Will DEST be producing a separate annual VET report, similar to the ANTA Annual Report, now that it has assumed responsibility for ANTA's functions? If so, what is the expected date of publication?
E629_07	Wong	VET		Written	Please provide data for the most recent 12 month period on the number: b) in training; c) commencements; d) completions; e) cancellations and withdrawals, of i. all New Apprenticeships; ii. 'traditional apprentices'; iii. New Apprenticeships in the trades and related workers ASCO category, by: 1. federal electorate; 2. state; 3. industry grouping
E630_07	Wong	VET		Written	Following the passage of the new industrial relations requirements in the Skilling Australia's Workforce Act, how many TAFE staff are now on AWAs? Are all TAFEs complying with the Commonwealth's new requirement that they offer AWAs to all staff?
E631_07	Wong	VET		Written	Does DEST provide any advice to DIMA on a company's training record, to form part of DIMA's assessment to become a sponsor of skilled migrants? If so, on what matters does DEST advise? If not, what sort of information could DEST provide to DIMA on a company's training record, if they were asked? Do interdepartmental committees or working groups exist that would examine this issue, or have any been recently proposed? If so, what is their membership and how often do they meet?
E632_07	Wong	VET		Written	How many Trade Skills Training Visa apprentices have been registered on DEST's TYMIS? Where are these apprentices located?
E633_07	Wong	VET		Written	DEST Annual Report 2005-06, p. 167, details a settlement of a claim against the Commonwealth for \$2500 with respect to a claim for traineeship incentives. To which incentive payment to which qualification did the claim relate? What was the nature of the dispute?
E634_07	Wong	HEG		Written	DEST Annual report p.221, a consultancy by PhillipsKPA on credit transfer between VET and Higher Education (PRN8366, Contract No. 76161). Has this report been completed? If not, when it is due to be delivered to the Department? Will the report be made publicly available? If so, when? If not, why not?
E635_07	Wong	VET		Written	DEST Annual report p.230, a consultancy by the Australia & New Zealand School of Government on the ANTA transition (PRN9992, contract no. 76485). Has the case study been completed? If so, when was the report provided to DEST? If not, when is the consultancy due to report? Will the report be made publicly available? If so, when? If not, why not?

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E636_07	Wong	SG		Written & EWRE 142	<p>a) Since 1 July 2005, has the Department or any officer of the Department been approached, either on a formal or informal basis, by Mr Kevin Donnelly or any company associated with Mr Donnelly with any suggestion, request or proposal for new, revised or continuing consultancy? If yes to the previous question,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. which officer or area of the department was approached, ii. what was the topic of the proposed consultancy, iii. what was the result of the approach, iv. what was the total cost of the proposal as advanced by the proponent, and v. if the consultancy has been agreed, what is the expected actual cost of the task? Please provide a copy of the original proposal. <p>b) Since 1 July 2005, has the Minister or his/her office been approached, either on a formal or informal basis, by Mr Kevin Donnelly or any company associated with Mr Donnelly with any suggestion, request or proposal for new, revised or continuing consultancy? (For reference purposes, I refer to Mr Donnelly's successful touting of a paid consultancy to the former Minister, Dr Nelson). If yes to the previous question,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. which Minister or staff member was approached, ii. what was the topic of the proposed consultancy, iii. what was the result of the approach, iv. what was the total cost of the proposal as advanced by the proponent, and v. if the consultancy has been agreed, what is the expected actual cost of the task? Please provide a copy of the original proposal.
E637_07	WONG	ARC		Written	Please provide funding details over the forward estimates (4 years) for all ARC appropriations, broken down to clearly detail all of the programs within each of those Council's appropriation.
E638_07	WONG	ARC		Written	<p>Regarding P 142 of 2006 Annual Report:</p> <p>a) What are the reasons for the variation between the 05/06 Budget administered expenses and actual expenses, a \$28.5m difference? Please provide a full breakdown of expenses that were budgeted for but did not eventuate.</p> <p>Regarding P 142 of 2006 Annual Report:</p> <p>b) Why was there a difference between expected staffing levels, 76 expected and 68 actual? How has this affected the work of the ARC?</p> <p>Regarding P 148 of 2006 Annual Report: Please provide reasons for departmental budget changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an increase of \$2m in Govt revenues 05 to 06 b) the significant difference in "other revenues" -c) "writedown and impairment of assets" going from \$959,000 in 05 to \$1,000 in 06. <p>Please provide a full breakdown of figures that account for the total differences outlined above.</p>

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E639_07	WONG	ARC		Written	<p>a) Can the ARC confirm that the share of Group of Eight universities in terms of ARC grant funding has been increasing for the last few years?</p> <p>b) Please provide the funding provided to Go8 universities for the last 3 years in each of the ARC's grant areas (e.g. Linkage, Discovery, Federation Fellows etc). Please also provide the total funding disbursed in that year for comparison.</p> <p>c) What does the ARC put this down to?</p> <p>d) Could the ARC please provide amount and proportion of ARC grant funding including Discovery, Linkage, Federation Fellows and the other areas, that has gone to the various university groupings cumulatively, i.e. Go8, ATN, IRU, NGUs etc?</p>
E640_07	WONG & STEPHENS	ARC		Written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many applications did the ARC receive for climate change-based or global warming-based research in the 2006 round? • How many climate change or global warming-based projects did the ARC fund in the 2006 round? What was the success rate for climate change based applications? • Please also provide this data for each of the last four years.
E641_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>Learning and Teaching Performance Funds - Stage 2: Until 2007, universities are required to provide Higher Education Provider Statements which were intended to balance the numeric assessment driven by performance indicator data with a qualitative judgement of that data and related information. This will not be the case for 2007 funding</p> <p>a) Why has this change been made?</p> <p>b) Please explain what feedback has DEST received on the 2006 requirement and the new change?</p> <p>c) Please explain what constitutes "contextual factors" in the guidelines?</p> <p>d) What processes will be in place to ensure that universities with a more diverse student population will not be disadvantaged by this change, given this was also an issue under the 2006 funding model?</p>
E642_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>Changes have been made to the assessment of universities by four broad discipline groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - science, computing, engineering, architecture and agriculture; - business, law and economics; - humanities, arts and education; and - health <p>a) Why have these change been made?</p> <p>b) What feedback did DEST receive on the assessment aspect of the LTPF for the 2006 funding?</p> <p>c) What feedback has DEST received about this change?</p> <p>d) Is the Minister going to further separate the discipline groups, e.g. anthropology, sociology, history, etc. under humanities?</p>
E643_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>From 2007 DEST will cease using ordinal ranking as part of the methodology in assessment.</p> <p>a) Why has this change been proposed?</p> <p>b) What consultation was undertaken and what feedback has DEST received about this change?</p> <p>c) What model will be used instead?</p>
E644_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>Allocation of funds will be only to the top-end outcomes rather than to research funding, where the contribution of all universities to research outcomes is appropriately acknowledged.</p> <p>a) Can you explain this inconsistency in the funding between research and the LTPF?</p>

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E645_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>The Minister will consider the advice of the Expert Panel in determining which universities will receive funding and how the funding will be distributed.</p> <p>a) Will the Expert Panel's advice be made public?</p> <p>b) Will the Minister provide explanatory material for her decisions?</p> <p>c) Have any discussions taken place between DEST and the Minister or Minister's office about how the funding will be distributed? If yes, what have they been?</p>
E646_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>a) In relation to the changes with the assessment of four broad discipline groupings, the definition of excellence may be different for each discipline area depending on the results of the quantitative model and the respective recommendations of the expert panel.</p> <p>i. What are the reasons behind possible different definitions of excellent for each discipline area?</p> <p>ii. Could you please advise what these different definitions might be?</p> <p>b) The Expert Panel will prepare a general statement about its overall findings for 2007, which may be publicly released.</p> <p>i. Has the Minister determined whether it will be publicly released?</p> <p>ii. Under what circumstances will it not be publicly released?</p>
E647_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>At the conclusion of the process for 2007, the Expert Panel may also provide the department with feedback on the operation of the fund and make suggestions to improve it for future years.</p> <p>a) Will this feedback be made public?</p> <p>b) Under what circumstances will it not be publicly released?</p>
E648_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>On 5 September The Australian reported that Australian universities will get more than \$50 million from the Federal Government to help implement workplace changes and become more efficient.</p> <p>a) Is this figure listed in the budget papers? If so, where?</p> <p>b) Please provide a table of the allocation of the funds – which university, purpose of funds, etc. The Australian reported 47 projects under the funding arrangement</p>
E649_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>The Agency Budget statements show \$4 million for 2006-07 allocated to small business incentives for regional campuses.</p> <p>a) Have all or any of the \$4 million been distributed?</p> <p>b) Is so, where? When? By what process?</p>
E650_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	<p>On 18 April 2006 Minister Bishop announced that applications for 4.420 new Commonwealth supported higher education places will be open to all eligible providers nationally, with no pre-determined allocation between the States and Territories. Bids will be assessed and approved on the basis of workforce needs, capacity to deliver and potential demand from eligible students.</p> <p>a) How will this process operate?</p> <p>b) Are there public guidelines?</p> <p>c) What makes a university eligible to bid?</p> <p>d) What is the administrative cost of the bid process?</p>

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E651_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	With reference to the IHEAC policy paper Improving Indigenous Outcomes and Enhancing Indigenous Culture and Knowledge in Australian Higher Education and the \$1.73 million funding announced by the Minister for Education in a press release of 18th July. This included \$750,000 for partnership projects to encourage universities to increase the number of cross sectoral partnerships and pathways for Indigenous students. Ten partnerships were proposed. Are any yet determined or under way as yet?
E652_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	With reference to this same \$1.73 million funding it included up to \$600,000 for expressions of interest to develop 3 or more lighthouse national projects of 2 years duration to develop cross sectoral collaboration particularly for mature age students already in the workforce. Have expressions of interest been called for this and if so what has been the response? If not why not and when is it proposed to do so and through what means?
E653_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	This funding also included \$310,000 to commission research into a study of the first year experience of Indigenous students, and Indigenous higher education sector support systems for Indigenous students. Has this been commenced?
E654_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	This funding further included \$50,000 to award 2 International Scholarships under the Endeavour Program. What steps have been taken to action these scholarships?
E655_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	The IHEAC second conference was held in September 2006. The Council are now working on the proceedings to further develop Indigenous Higher Education Policy. Does DEST have a role in assisting with this policy development? Is there any indication of a timeline when the latest policy recommendations might be published?
E656_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	In her speech to this second conference the Minister said in her Conference speech that the Australian Indigenous Doctor's Association was to get \$60,000 to continue the Indigenous Adolescents in Medicine program. Can you tell me how many Indigenous adolescents took part in the 2 year pilot for this program? Where did the program operate? How was the pilot funded? What evaluation was done before deciding to continue the program?
E657_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	The NTEU in a press release of 18th July state that one of the critical issues addressed in the IHEAC Report is the decline in Indigenous student commencements – numbers dropped significantly in 2000 and have fluctuated since. The Minister, in her speech said that in fact in 2005 the number of Indigenous higher education students declined by nearly 6% (5.9%). Can you give any indication of what has happened to Indigenous HE student numbers this year, 2006?
E658_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	In the IHEAC Report the Council ask that government and universities develop a concerted strategy to raise the level of Indigenous participation. What discussions if any have occurred to date with universities and/or the AVCC to this end?
E659_07	Wong	HEG		Written	Can the Department please update answer to question e671_06 to include 2005 figures?
E660_07	Wong	HEG		Written	What is the average HECS debt for students current enrolled in a course of study at a Table A providers?
E661_07	Wong	HEG		Written	What were the individual funding allocations made to providers in each of the 11 category items funded under section 41-50 of the Higher Education Support Act, totalling \$1,716,942,000?
E662_07	Wong	HEG		Written	Please update answer, in the same file formats, to question e315_06 with latest available data.

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E663_07	Wong	HEG		Written	DEST Annual Report 2005-06 at p.78 says that 41 providers met the Higher Education Workplace relations requirement in 2006, whereas p.80 says that 42 providers met the requirements in 2006. To clarify: a) Which higher education providers were eligible for the \$151million funding conditional upon meeting HEWRRs? b) Which higher education providers were certified as HEWRRs compliant in 2006?
E664_07	Wong	HEG		Written	On a financial year basis, please breakdown programmes funded in the Budget under the Higher Education Support Act for the current Budget year and across the forward estimate period.
E665_07	Wong	HEG		Written	Skills for the Future a) What will be the allocation process for these extra 500 engineering places? Who will be eligible for these places? What is average funding per place? b) What impact is this initiative expected to have on the overall level of HELP debt?
E666_07	Wong	HEG		Written	Which universities failed to meet their enrolment targets in 2005 and 2006? By what amount were these universities under-enrolled?
E667_07	Wong	HEG		Written	Which universities were over-enrolled in 2005 and 2006? By what amount were these universities over-enrolled?
E668_07	Wong	HEG		Written	What is the indexation factor applied to HELP debts? On what date is the debt indexed?
E669_07	Wong	HEG		Written	What indexation factor was applied to grants under the Higher Education Support Act in 2005 and 2006? Please specify the programs and amounts that were subject to each indexation factor? On what dates were these factors applied?
E670_07	Wong	HEG		Written	DEST Annual Report 2005-06 p.165 detailed an increase of \$422.1million in expenses as a result of the change in accounting treatment. Is this total amount due to the change in accounting standards? If not, please breakdown this total by the different factors that cause the increase in the expense.
E671_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 51	Senator WONG—You release each year...a statistical publication called Students 2004 or 2005, 2006 et cetera, which contains statistics relating to students enrolled in higher ed courses in each of the Australian higher education providers et cetera... Senator WONG—Is the department producing a higher education report for 2005-06? Senator WONG—While I think of it, Dr Perkins, are you publishing those reports in hard copy as well? Dr Perkins—Yes, I believe we will be. Senator WONG—Should I put on notice a request for the hard copies of both those documents? Dr Perkins—Yes.
E672_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 57	I think the short answer to your question is that, yes, we model the forward estimates of accumulated HELP debt, which are affected by a whole range of factors, one of which clearly is policy change. It is a learning model in the sense that it picks up changes in observed behaviour of persons' repayment propensities and actual repayment levels. I guess we could give you, perhaps on notice rather than now, an outline of the things that feed into our estimation model—
E673_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 63	How many universities would not have met their enrolment targets, if you do not want to tell me who they are?

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E674_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 64	Please take on notice the details about that, their numbers and where they are coming from for the University of Canberra, Southern Cross and the Australian Maritime College. Then perhaps also provide on notice the information for James Cook, if that occurs within the period for answering questions on notice.
E675_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 65	What about overenrolments? Mr Manns—In relation to 2005 the position is the same as I explained to you with underenrolments in terms of where we are up to, getting that completely finished and being able to put it over to the minister. Senator WONG—So you can provide that data to me at a later stage. Mr Manns—For 2005? Senator WONG—Correct.
E676_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 68	Senator WONG—Dr Perkins, do you track both undergraduate and postgraduate? Dr Perkins—Undergraduate and postgraduates who are doing course work, not research. Senator WONG—Can you give me undergraduate first? Dr Perkins—In 2005, three per cent of all domestic undergraduate students in an award course at public universities—that is, table A providers—were fee paying. So that is 15,611 fee paying students, including 2,310 in summer/winter semesters, out of a total of 523,327 students. Senator WONG—So 15,611 is the head count? Dr Perkins—Correct. a) Senator WONG—So what is the EFTSL? Dr Perkins—I do not actually have that figure in the brief. We might have to take that one on notice... b) Senator WONG—Do you have the figures on postgraduate by coursework, which is the other data you said you tracked? Dr Perkins—I do not have the breakdown of that figure. We will have to take that on notice
E677_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 68 & 69	So that is 15,611 fee paying students, including 2,310 in summer/winter semesters, out of a total of 523,327 students... Are you able, on notice, to provide for me a breakdown of the 15,611 figure by university, including the 2,310 in summer/winter semesters?
E678_07	Wong	HEG		EWRE 68	Senator WONG—Are you able to tell me the average fee paid by a domestic fee paying student at a table A provider? Dr Perkins—I do not have that figure. Mr Manns—Perhaps we could take that on notice. It is certainly not something we have on hand. Senator WONG—And on notice, perhaps to disaggregate the data a bit, are you able to provide us with information on the fee ranges? Senator WONG—I am after the number of students within each of those. You are coming back to me with the average fee. I am asking you to also give the various fee ranges and what percentage and number of each population is in each category.
E679_07	Stephens	HEG		EWRE 76 & 77	Senator STEPHENS—One of the requirements of the new system is to offer AWAs to university staff as a condition of funding. Is the department aware of how many staff in Australian universities are on Australian Workplace Agreements at the moment? Senator STEPHENS—Is there a way of telling how many of these were for academic staff and how many were for general staff?

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E680_07	Stephens	HEG		EWRE 78	You provided an answer to question E340_07 about market research, where the consultancy was off-tender, select tender of off-government communication arrangements for Worthington Di Marzio, the value of which was \$157,740. What kind of market research was undertaken? What was involved in that market research? What kinds of activities were undertaken? If there was a report to the department, what were the findings of the report? The title was 'Provision of market research for the education reforms campaign'.
E681_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	Please provide a progress report on what it is doing in response to The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation report on "Pathways to Technological Innovation"? Could DEST specifically report on what they're doing in response to recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13? Progress could be in terms of formulating a whole-of-Government response, or in the implementation of specific recommendations.
E682_07	Stephens	HEG		Written	DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT: On 7 September Minister Bishop announced that the Australian government will provide \$400,000 for a consortium of universities to develop a single agreed template for an Australian Diploma Supplement. a) Which universities will comprise the consortium of universities? The same who were involved in the 2002 pilot project? b) How will the \$400,000 funding be allocated? c) Is the consortium expected to choose a template from the 3 displayed on the DEST website? d) What is the department's expectation of the take-up rate of the diploma supplement at Australian universities? e) What issues will be address in the project
E683_07	Wong	CSG		Written	Page 107 of DEST Annual Report 2005-06 shows an underspend in Administered expenses relating to Research Infrastructure of \$15,766,000 (Budget 2005-06 \$585,137,000 vs. Actual of \$569,371,000). Page 107 of DEST Annual Report 2005-06 shows an underspend in Administered expenses relating to Assistance for science collaboration and innovation of \$4,479,000 (Budgeted \$266,545,000 vs. Actual \$262,066,000). a) Why was this the case? b) Please provide a full breakdown of areas within each Output where actual expenditure was lower than budgeted, including the amounts underspent in each area.
E684_07	Wong	CSG		Written	Page 107 of DEST Annual Report 2005-06 shows an overspend in Departmental expenses relating to Research Infrastructure of \$3,120,000 (Budgeted \$3,623,000 vs. Actual \$6,743,000). Page 107 of DEST Annual Report 2005-06 shows an overspend in Departmental expenses relating to Assistance for science collaboration and innovation of \$3,313,000 (Budgeted \$18,890,000 vs. Actual \$22,203,000). a) Why was this the case? b) Please provide a full breakdown of areas within each Output where actual expenditure was lower than budgeted, including the amounts underspent in each area?
E685_07	Evans	SAE		Written	How much was allocated and expended for Abstudy (Tertiary Stream) and Abstudy (Schools Stream) in 2005-06?
E686_07	Evans	I&T		Written	How does your department explain the decline in higher education and VET Indigenous commencements?
E687_07	Evans	I&T		Written	Are you or your department aware of decline in the number of CDEP participants also receiving Abstudy since July 2006? If so, a) On what date, did you become aware? b) How many CDEP participants have ceased receiving Abstudy in this period?

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E688_07	Evans	SAE		Written	Do you intend to review the means test and payment rates for Abstudy in tertiary levels as recommended by the Higher Education Indigenous Advisory Council?
E689_07	Evans	I&T		Written	Are you or your department aware of a decline in the number of CDEP participants undertaking study since July 2006? If so, a) when did your department become aware? b) What action has your department taken to address this issue?
E690_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	Can you tell me why the National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training 2004 took until 2006 to table?
E691_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	Under IESIP it is a goal to train sufficient teachers to work within Indigenous Education. In the Report at page 53 Table 3.11 shows that from 2001 to 2004 the number of Indigenous staff rose by 6.7% but was still only a total of 0.02% of total teaching staff. What attempts are being made to recruit and train more Indigenous staff?
E692_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	Under IESIP are funds for the employment of people as AIEW's only for Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers or are non Indigenous people allowed to work in those positions? Or is this a matter for States and territories to decide?
E693_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	At page xix of the report under Educational Outcomes for schools you do not give any data for the Northern Territory. Why was this? Do you have any data for the NT in terms of how many students met the requirements for Year 12 Certificate in 2004? Do you have figures for 2005?
E694_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	Following the major changes to funding to the PSPI and Whole of School arrangements, and the abolition of ASSPA we had enormous hearsay evidence of Indigenous parents dropping out of any involvement in schools. Have you any figures on schools with Indigenous parent groups still involved in schools in 2006?
E695_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	a) Can you give an updated breakdown of the release of PSPI funds in the NT? b) The dates these funds were released to schools/clusters? c) Can you do this by remote and urban schools please? d) When do you expect to release round 2 funds in 2006? e) Can you list homework centres separately please?
E696_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	I had a call from one of the small, remote schools in the Katherine cluster saying that they received no money to the cluster until near the end of term two so it was into term 3 before they could spend anything. Why the delay?
E697_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	In answer to question E016_07 from May 2006 you provided a table of expenditure (see attached) in which it appears that spending under the Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act actually reduces between 2005/06 and 2006/07 from \$341,738 to \$332,359. You may have answered this question in other answers but can you confirm these figures and tell me why the reduction?
E698_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	The Tiwi Secondary College proposal I hear has been varied. The proposed site has been changed, at least temporarily. a) How does this affect the \$10 million funding from DEST? b) How will this affect the proposed budget?

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E699_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	What audit checks do DEST carry out on IESIP usage – do you actually check that these funds are used for genuine Indigenous education projects rather than nebulous projects which may involve say the purchase of a 4 wheel drive for headquarters based officers to drive around in as curriculum developers (as happened in the NT under the CLP Government).
E700_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	Where have you got to with the guidelines for Sporting Academies? Have you yet called for expressions of interest?
E701_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	At May estimates you were drawing up guidelines for the community Festivals program. Have you completed this?
E702_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	Also at May estimates there was a review going on into what was called originally the “ Mission Schools Agreement” in the NT. At that time I think you said there was an interim agreement in place but community consultation was going on. Depending on this the Agreement the former “mission” schools could be treated the same as government schools. Was this review and consultation completed and what is the status of these “mission” schools now regarding funding?.
E703_07	Crossin	I&T		Written	In relation to the Halls Creek Trial: a) Have DEST had time to read and analyse this Evaluation Report released in September? b) Has it shown them some of the realities of Indigenous community life and the problems faced by the people? Would you accept that in fact similar problems and issues affect many Indigenous communities? c) Have DEST had any meetings with other government departments or stakeholders involved with the Halls Creek community to discuss the report or consider any of the recommendations? d) What role in fact does DEST have in this trial and any follow up? Which was the lead agency? e) Did Halls Creek have an Indigenous Parent Committee prior to the abolition of ASSPA committees? Does it have a Parent Committee of any kind now under the PSPI? How many Indigenous parents are on it? (over 94% of the kids are Indigenous) f) What project funding has Halls Creek School in fact had under PSPI for both 2005 and 2006? g) How did this compare to funding under the previous ASSPA scheme in 2004? h) Were any of their applications rejected and if so which ones and why? i) How did Halls Creek compare in PSPI funding with other schools in the area and mentioned in the Evaluation Report (Page 8 para 5) as having above average attendance? (schools like Dawul, Kalumbaru and Oombulgurri). What projects got funded in these schools? j) Does Halls Creek receive any Commonwealth funding for programs such as after hours activities? k) Have DEST staff visited these other communities which have good attendance to see if they have any of the similar socio economic problems of Halls Creek or in what way they might be different?
E704_07	Wong	I&T		Written	Careers, transitions and partnerships programme: Please provide, in Excel format, total funding allocated (\$m) under the Careers, transitions and partnerships programme, for each state and territory and nationally; and for government, Catholic and independent schools separately, for each of the years 2005 to 2008.
E705_07	Evans	I&T		Written	How does the department explain the decline in higher education and VET Indigenous commencements?

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E706_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>DEST Annual Report 2006/07 (p.95) details the number of full time students supported by the Youth Allowance and Austudy. In the past 2 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of students receiving Youth Allowance has fallen 5% • the number of students receiving Austudy has fallen 16%. <p>How does the Department explain the reduction in the number of full time students receiving Youth Allowance or Austudy? Why is the reduction more pronounced for Austudy recipients?</p>
E707_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>DEST Annual Report 2006/07 (p.95) details the number of full time students supported by the Youth Allowance and Austudy. Of the 150,230 full time tertiary students in receipt of Youth Allowance, 65,112 achieved independence through meeting the workforce participation requirements (43%). The number of students achieving the independent rate of Youth Allowance through workforce participation seems high at 43%.</p> <p>a) Is this higher than previous years? Is there a trend in this data?</p> <p>b) Can DEST provide the number of students, and as a percentage of the total recipients, who have achieved the independent rate of Youth Allowance through workforce participation for the last 5 years?</p> <p>c) Has DEST examined this issue in any greater detail? Is it explained by students working more whilst studying, meeting the workforce requirements by taking time off study, or other reasons?</p> <p>d) What is the age profile of the students who receive the independent rate? Is it higher for students in their second or third years at university (19 or 20)?</p>
E708_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>DEST Annual Report 2006/07 (p.167) details Federal and Supreme Court proceedings involving the Department. The first case listed concerns proceedings in the Federal Court from April 2005 regarding an appeal from an AAT decision that a student was entitled to the Youth Allowance during the time that he was enrolled at an overseas university. On 11 May 2006 a Federal Court judge found in favour of the student.</p> <p>a) What was at issue in the dispute with this student?</p> <p>Has DEST changed any of its policies or procedures arising from the outcome of the case?</p> <p>b) Has the eligibility of Australian students enrolled at overseas universities as part of a Student Exchange or Study Abroad program been affected by the decision? If so, how?</p>
E709_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>For each year since 2001, how many Youth Allowance recipients have received Rent Assistance?</p>
E710_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>DEST Annual Report 2006/07 (p.238) shows a consultancy by the University of Melbourne entitled 'Youth Allowance Independence Criteria Review', at a cost of \$90,571:</p> <p>a) What were the terms of reference for the review?</p> <p>b) Has the consultant's final report been received by the Department?</p> <p>c) What were its key findings?</p> <p>d) Can a copy of the report be made available to the Committee?</p>
E711_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>DEST Annual Report 2005-06 p.94 shows a decline in the number of students in receipt of Abstudy-tertiary. What is the reason for this decline? Is the decline geographically based? Please provide Abstudy-tertiary recipients by State and Territory for the years since 1996.</p>
E712_07	Wong	SAE		Written	<p>How many students received income support at each university since 2001? Please specify by payment type (Youth Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy).</p>

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E713_07	Wong	SAE		Written	DEST Annual Report 2005-06 p.95, table 4.17 details income supported students – current recipients by programme and tertiary sector. Can the Department please provide historical information on the data in this table extending back to 2001?
E714_07	Wong	SAE		Written	How many Youth Allowance recipients (actual recipients and in percentage terms) take advantage of the \$6000 income back? What the average amount students credit in their income bank?
E715_07	Crossin	ANSTO		Written	Would waste from an Australian nuclear power plant be reprocessed in France under existing contracts before disposal?
E716_07	WONG	ANSTO		EWRE 35	On page 34, at F0044-8B, materials fabrication bay, it says 'an incident involving unauthorised access and incorrect procedure'. Can you tell me what that was? Dr Cameron—We are not clear on the full details. This would have been in relation to a staff member. The likelihood is that a staff member was not trained for entry into that particular area. Senator WONG—You can provide some further information on that? Dr Cameron—Yes.
E717_07	WONG	ANSTO		EWRE 33, 35 & 36	Okay. How many incidents were there in the January to March quarter? How many incidents were reported to ARPANSA for the March quarter? Could you take on notice in relation to each incident reported to ARPANSA in the March quarter details including what occurred, the dates on which it occurred, whether staff were involved and whether there was any escape of radioactive substances into the environment? Can you also indicate when each incident was reported to ARPANSA—and you might want to relate that to the protocols that you have indicated to me as to the time frames for reporting; if and when each incident was reported to the minister; and what steps ANSTO has taken to avoid this in the future? If it is possible, could you do that in relation to all licences? That would include ARI, would it not?
E718_07	Wong	SG		EWRE12 2	Can I go to the non-government schools funding review that we were discussing at the previous estimates. Ms Paul—We have consulted with the groups affected. Senator WONG—Can you give me a list of the groups affected with whom you have consulted, please, on notice
E719_07	WONG	ANSTO		EWRE 41	Dr Smith, in respect of your suggestion that AINSE's estimates of skills needed for a processing plant is an overestimate, could you on notice indicate to me what you think would be a more accurate estimate.
E720_07	WONG	ANSTO		EWRE43	Senator WONG—Before the break you were telling me that ANSTO had provided various other documentation to the inquiry. I am asking you to provide copies of that documentation to the committee. Dr Cameron—We can do so. Senator WONG—Thank you—all documents that have been submitted over and above the submission from which I was quoting.

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E721_07	CROSSIN	ANSTO		EWRE 47	<p>In terms of that process, have you had any discussions with Parsons Brinckerhoff? Senator CROSSIN—Have they contacted you at all? Dr Cameron—We have a liaison person at ANSTO who liaises with the department and I believe that she may have had a meeting with them and the department as part of that process of understanding what is going on. Senator CROSSIN—Could you take it on notice and inform me whether that has happened rather than giving an assumption that it has? Senator CROSSIN—Could you also take on notice what issues may have been raised in that meeting or what advice was given in that meeting?</p>
E722_07	CROSSIN	ANSTO		EWRE 48	<p>Senator CROSSIN—Can you provide me with a list of perhaps those companies that have these dedicated ships? Can you take it on notice? Dr Cameron—We can give you a list of the sort of companies that we considered for our shipments.</p>
E723_07	WONG	ANSTO		EWRE 50	<p>Senator WONG—No, I know what it was. You have an interaction with overseas. Dr Smith—Yes, correct. The training we were talking about was to increase the skill of our current staff. Senator WONG—Dr Smith, if you could take it on notice, I actually just want details of the organisations with whom you are having those arrangements.</p>
E724_07	WONG	CSIRO		Written	<p>Please provide funding details over the forward estimates (4 years) for all CSIRO appropriations, broken down to the output level as set out on p.280 of the current PBS, with further detail for all of the programs within each of those outputs.</p>
E725_07	WONG & SIEWERT	CSIRO		EWRE 7	<p>Can you explain to me the justification for spending twice as much on coal, petroleum and gas research as on renewables? Dr Morton—I confess that I do not have at my fingertips the breakdown among those different areas... I could provide you with that information if you wanted a breakdown... Senator WONG—Could you provide that on notice? Dr Morton—Yes, certainly.</p>
E726_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 8	<p>Mr Whelan—The CSIRO operational plan... Senator WONG—Perhaps you can provide us with a copy of that. That would be useful. Are we able to get a tabled copy today? Mr Whelan—I will undertake to follow that up.</p>
E727_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 12	<p>I think you said that you did not have details of this to hand, Mr Whelan, but can you provide exactly what the \$15.467 million comprises?</p>
E728_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 14	<p>Mr Whelan—Across the road from the Lindfield site, we also owned two residential sites. In the past, they might have been caretakers' residences when the property was developed in the early 1980s. We have identified those residential allotments for sale. Senator WONG—Can you tell me the value of each of these properties? Mr Whelan—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
E729_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 16	<p>Senator WONG – ... of the 18, how many in corporate or HR Mr Whelan – I would have to take that on notice</p>
E730_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 16	<p>Again, this might be a question for Dr Garrett, but could you provide some indication as to why between 2004 and 2006 the number of SES earning above that band has gone from five to 18.</p>

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E731_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 16	<p>As I understand it, you prepare documents which result in whatever your decisions are about broad direction setting. Are you able to provide us with one for the 2006-07 year?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—What is the document you are requesting?</p> <p>Senator WONG—Your document setting out the SIP broad direction.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Yes, we have a broad direction setting document. So you would like a copy of the update?</p> <p>Senator WONG—Yes, please.</p>
E732_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 16	<p>In the last estimates you talked about \$10 million, which was the effect of the timing of property settlements associated with the Lindfield property. Does that correlate with what you told me today? I thought it was \$14 million...</p> <p>Senator WONG—At pages 58 and 59 of the Hansard of 31 May you indicated to me that it was \$10 million. You are welcome to come back afterwards if you cannot clarify it today. Can you, on notice, clarify how that correlates with the evidence you have given today.</p>
E733_07	CROSSIN	CSIRO		EWRE 19	<p>Senator CROSSIN—I meant broader stakeholders like the Mango Growers Association, the Banana Growers Association and the Northern Territory Horticultural Association. Were they consulted about this or were they just informed of this decision?</p> <p>Dr Robertson—My understanding is that Dr Burdon, over a period of two years, has been having this conversation and consulting with them about the sustainability of the work that could be done up there. Other than that, I can only give you the details on notice.</p> <p>Senator CROSSIN--It was my understanding, when I met with the NT Horticultural Association, that they were informed of the decision; it was the first they had heard of it. So can you take on notice for me when the CEO of that division would have met with all of the stakeholders, which stakeholders he met with and over what periods of time over the two years?</p>
E734_07	CROSSIN	CSIRO		EWRE 20	<p>Given that the CSIRO undertakes research in Darwin into the nature of what happens with the burn-off, given that there is a tropical savannah CRC and given that the move seems to be anyone who is doing research in or in connection with the tropics is actually located in the tropics, what kind of analysis was made of the benefit to the industry before this decision was made?</p>
E735_07	CROSSIN	CSIRO		EWRE 20	<p>Perhaps you might also take on notice, in very explicit detail, how you believe that that further support will be provided, given that these are experts in molecular fungal diseases in relation to tropical horticulture—mangoes and bananas—and they are going to be sitting in Canberra.</p>
E736_07	SIEWERT	CSIRO		EWRE 21	<p>Could you therefore take on notice to give us an understanding of what projects you are working on with Geoscience Australia. Also, when you give us the breakdown, could you give us the specific projects that you are working on in exploration. I am particularly, at this stage, interested in the exploration projects that are being worked on. I am trying to get a picture of what Geoscience are doing and what CSIRO are doing in overall exploration science.</p>
E737_07	SIEWERT	CSIRO		EWRE 23	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Would you be able to provide details on the levels of investment that are being put into that and the partners in that project?</p> <p>Dr Morton—The ACCESS initiative?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes.</p>
E738_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 24	<p>What is the total value of consultancies that the corporate brand and marketing group sought?</p>

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E739_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 24 & 25	Were the findings of the Transform ID project which led to the larger quantitative survey incorporated in the MARS research?
E740_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 25	Senator WONG—You considered looking at the various consultancies that we have been referring to. How much money has been spent on public relations, communication and branding through these consultancies? Mr Whelan—I do not have those details, but I think that is consistent with the offer to take that on notice earlier—to add that up. Senator WONG—Is it a few hundred thousand? Would that be right? Mr Whelan—Based on the ones we were asked questions about this morning it is of the order of one hundred, but I have not done the maths yet.
E741_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 27	Senator WONG—The funding for the CRC for Renewable Energy ran from 1997 to 2004. Is there any extension to the funding in relation to that CRC? Mr Whelan—I do not have a specific brief on that. I could follow that up for you.
E742_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 27	Senator WONG—Are you aware of whether or not CSIRO contributed to that CRC for Renewable Energy? Mr Whelan—It is not leaping out at me, but I can check that.
E743_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 27	Senator WONG—Can you tell me, then, what CSIRO's role was, how much you contributed, if anything, and if the CRC was discontinued—as I understand it was—where that CSIRO investment has been redirected. Are you unable to give me that information? Mr Whelan—I am not aware what the investment was, but I have undertaken to follow it up. Your questions are all a consequence of the first answer.
E744_07	WONG	CSIRO		EWRE 28	Senator WONG—You have already invested \$1 million so far in the post-combustion capture. Is that right? Dr Morton, from memory, you and I had a discussion about this on the last occasion... Can you tell me what funding has been spent to date and what was projected to be spent over the forward estimates on that project? Mr Whelan—We would have to take that on notice... Dr Morton—Mr Whelan is right: to give you adequate detail we would have to take it on notice. But I can confirm that the low emissions coal technologies group of projects, which I mentioned in answer to an earlier question, comprises some \$10 million in this financial year. The bulk of that work is directed towards the post combustion capture work. Senator WONG—So it is \$10 million for 2006-07... Can you tell me what the current forward estimate is for that project over the 2007-08 year? Mr Whelan—I do not have that data with me. I am happy to take that on notice.
E745_07	Stephens	CSIRO		EWRE 29	It would be helpful if you could provide us with the way in which people's employment has been terminated—whether people have resigned, been made redundant or not had their contracts renewed. Could you take that on notice?
E746_07	Stephens	CSIRO		EWRE 69	Senator STEPHENS—Are you able to direct me to where I can find that information? Is that on the website? Mr Morton—Yes, there will be a website and we are certainly prepared to advance that to you afterwards. Senator STEPHENS—If you could that would great. Thank you very much.
E747_07	Stephens	CSIRO		EWRE 69	Could you provide on notice details of the external funding for wind energy?

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E748_07	Ludwig	PAL		Written	<p>a) What sum did the department spend during 2005-2006 on external</p> <p>i. Barristers and</p> <p>ii. Solicitors (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).</p> <p>b) What sum did the department spend on internal legal services.</p> <p>c) What is the department's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.</p>
E749_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
E750_07	Wong	CSG		Written	<p>Please provide Budget appropriations to CSIRO for each year since 1996-97 Budget in chain-volume measures using the latest base year as the reference.</p>
E751_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>The DEST website lists March – September 2006 as the time period when preparation of funding proposals for the NCRIS process occurred.</p> <p>a) Has this happened?</p> <p>b) What are each of the proposals and what stage is each at?</p> <p>c) Could we please have a copy of the proposals?</p>
E752_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>a) At what is DEST in the development of a single national proposal for NCRIS funding?</p> <p>b) Has a single proposal been developed yet?</p> <p>c) When is it expected to be finalised?</p> <p>d) When will it be approved by the Minster?</p> <p>e) When will it be made public?</p>
E753_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>NCRIS proposals were meant to be assessed in late 2006? Has this occurred? When will they be assessed?</p>
E754_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>Does the NCRIS process take into account Australian industry needs in terms of research infrastructure? Or is it for facilities prioritised by researchers, universities and research organizations?</p>
E755_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>Funding for NCRIS: Backing Australia's Ability provides the following Funding Overview for NCRIS.</p> <p>\$m 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11</p> <p>NCRIS 1.9 15.1 100.3 102.7 104.9 107.3 109.7</p> <p>a) Is the NCRIS process on track with this overview?</p> <p>b) Did DEST spend the \$1.9m it was meant to in 2004-05 and 415.1 million in 2005-06? If so, what was it spent on? Please break down costs, including staffing, and other expenses.</p> <p>c) Is DEST on track to spend \$100.3 million in 2006-07?</p> <p>d) Could we please have revised estimates for the forward years?</p>
E756_07	Wong	IRSG		Written	<p>At what stage is the RQF DAG up to in developing an RQF model, including proposed timeline for the model to be made public?</p> <p>Does the Government still plan to tie all of the Institutional Grants Scheme and half of the Research Training Scheme to an RQF?</p> <p>Is DEST considering the advice of the Productivity Commission on delaying an RQF?</p>

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E757_07	Wong	PAL		EWRE 139	<p>Perhaps on notice you can get me a time line of the department's involvement in this matter—when departmental officers first became aware there was an issue and when there was an investigation or audit, if any.</p> <p>Mr Kriz—Obviously the matter is sub judice and I do not want to—</p> <p>Senator WONG—I can go to the court and have a look at your statement of claim.</p> <p>Mr Kriz—Of course. I can tell you about the statement of claim issues and so on. But in terms of anything that has not been put before the court—</p> <p>It is only a problem if it prejudices the court proceedings. I am simply asking about the process of investigation.</p> <p>When did you first become aware of it? You do not have to say every detail. Maybe you can do that on notice.</p>