

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3.1 – Research Infrastructure

#### **DEST Question No. E693\_04**

Senator Carr provided in writing

Refers to DEST Question No. E443\_04

#### **Question:**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has announced that Australia will fund a new high-speed broadband link for the University of the South Pacific, to give academics and students there better links to international research.

- a) Where will the funding for this come from? Will it be from the funds set aside to improve broadband for Australian education and research institutions?
- b) Was DEST consulted about this?

#### **Answer:**

*High Speed Broadband link*

(a) The funding is part of Australia's \$200 million commitment to the Virtual Colombo Plan (VCP). Funding for this link is part of an aid package and will not be drawn from the funds set aside to improve broadband for Australian education and research institutions.

(b) No.