

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E789_04

Senator Ludwig asked on 20 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 5.

Question:

Is there any research paper or outline as to why you have chosen to give money to the employer rather than to examine other potential areas which might improve the uptake rate of the test amongst students?

Answer:

GSA Research

The extensive consultation processes conducted through the review of higher education generated feedback from employers and graduates about the need for more information about graduate outcomes. The GSA, as a pre-existing tool, is one way to provide that information.

At this stage the future direction for the GSA is still under consideration. Some \$270,000 per year was allocated in *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* to promote the GSA from 2005. This provides an opportunity to scope the possibilities for the future uses of the GSA, including the role of the GSA in providing information about graduate outcomes to employers and graduates.

The feedback through the ACER contract has indicated a general downwards trend in the number of universities and students participating in the GSA. Universities are apparently reluctant to put resources into administering the GSA to a voluntary group of students, with fluid numbers. Students have seen little demand for the score from either universities or employers and few have chosen, as a result, to participate.

The GSA was initially promoted to universities and students, with less promotion to employers as the other potential users. The focus on employers in *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* is one way to improve the uptake rate amongst students, with employers driving a new demand for information about graduate outcomes.