

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: – 3.1 Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E184_05

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

How much does DEST estimate universities will be leveraging out of their funds to participate in competitive grant programmes over the next 5 years? What proportion of these will be funded by the NCRIS funding in BAA2? Please provide a breakdown of the figures.

Answer:

Competitive grant programmes

The Evaluation of the *Knowledge and Innovation Reforms* Consultation Report estimated that in 2003-04 the total leveraging requirement associated with funds provided by the Australian Research Council (ARC) (excluding Discovery Grants), the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) and Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) programmes totaled over \$450 million (P.48). It stated that leveraging requirements associated with competitive funding will increase over the next two years as funding increases delivered through Backing Australia's Ability and the (Wills) Health and Medical Research Strategic Review flowed into the system.

The Department has not prepared estimates of likely leveraging requirements over the next five years taking into account funding awarded under Backing Australia's Ability – Building our Future through Science and Innovation. The requirement will partly depend on decisions which have not yet been taken, for example in relation to the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

The NCRIS will provide \$542 million over seven years to provide major research facilities, supporting infrastructure and networks.