

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-05 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3. 2 - Assistance for science collaboration and innovation (of All)

#### **DEST Question No. E193\_05**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing:

#### **Question:**

Does DEST estimate that Australia has enough well trained Scientists, enough of a technologically capable workforce and enough active engagement in cutting edge research to benefit from the global public good of world knowledge?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Science and Innovation*

Yes. The Australian Government has made a significant additional investment in Australia's science and innovation system. In particular, Australia's science and innovation performance will be boosted through a \$5.3 billion package that continues and strengthens the successful *Backing Australia's Ability* programme.

*Backing Australia's Ability – Building our Future through Science and Innovation* is 75 per cent larger than the original \$3 billion *Backing Australia's Ability* plan announced in 2001, which at the time was the largest ever funding increase for science and innovation in Australia.

Together the packages constitute a ten-year, \$8.3 billion funding commitment stretching from 2001 to 2011.

Combined with other science and innovation programmes they take the Australian Government's ten-year investment in this key area to around \$52 billion.