

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.1 – Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E045_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

(a) The 2005-06 DEST PBS shows that the 2004-05 Estimated Actual allocation for Collaborative Research and Infrastructure was \$0, whereas Backing Australia's Ability 2 – 10 year Commitment to Science and Innovation lists a Government commitment of \$1.9 million in 2004-05. Please explain this discrepancy. Is this an underspend? If so why?

(b) Including the \$1.9 million discrepancy for 2004-05 period, there is a total discrepancy between the budgeted and forward estimates figures and BAA 2 of \$8.373 million. Is there a reason for this? Is this an underspend? Why?

Answer:

National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) forward estimates

Figures in the 2005-06 DEST PBS (page 129) shows only administered funds available for each programme in the forward estimates period. The funding table in *Backing Australia's Ability: Building Our Future through Science and Innovation* information package shows both administered and departmental funds associated with each programme.

There has been no underspend of administered funds for the programme and no underspend is projected.

The following table provides a reconciliation of the figures:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
BAA2 table - Administered funds	1.9	2.04	2.2	2.3	2.3
BAA2 table - Departmental funds	0	13.1	98.1	100.4	102.6
BAA2 table – total¹	1.9	15.14	100.3	102.7	104.9
2005-06 DEST PBS ²	0	13.151	98.678	101.19	103.508

Notes:

1 The *Backing Australia's Ability: Building Our Future through Science and Innovation* funding table shows budget figures rounded to one decimal place

2 Figures in DEST PBS have been subject to price level adjustments compared to 2004-05 Budget figures.