

## 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. E284\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

The 2005-06 DEST PBS shows that the HEFA and HESA allocation drops from \$578,687,000 to \$516,721,000. This is a drop of \$61,966,000 over 05-06 and 06-07. The forward estimates show that the difference between 05-06 and 07-08 allocations is \$57,154,000 and between 05-06 and 08-09 allocations is \$47,976,000. This is an aggregate drop of \$165,096,000 from the 2005-06 budgeted levels. Please explain this difference. Is this an underspend or is it reallocated elsewhere? Does this represent a policy shift in the Department?

#### **Answer:**

*HEFA and HESA allocations*

The reduction in allocation does not represent a policy shift in the Department. The reduction in allocation is represented by the cessation of the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative programme under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* from 2006, which has been replaced by the Annual Appropriation item of the Collaborative Research and Infrastructure Grants (Output 3.1).