

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E388_06

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

Question:

- a) What role does DEST have in setting financial benchmarks for Universities?
- b) Do they implement timelines for achieving those benchmarks?

Answer:

Financial benchmarks for Universities

- a) DEST assesses universities' financial performance against the benchmarks in the publication, 'Benchmarking, a manual for Australian universities' produced by K.R. McKinnon, S.H. Walker and D. Davis. The benchmarks represent good practice rather than mandatory requirements. The Department facilitated discussions and provided funding for the project leading to this publication.
- b) Universities normally set timelines for dealing with identified problems and the Department discusses these matters with them.