

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E077_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

On his recent trip to the United States, the Prime Minister announced the Government would contribute \$25 million towards the establishment of a United States Studies Centre in Australia.

Is this \$25 million already budgeted? If so, under which output group and budget line?

What process will be followed to allocate funding for the Centre?

Will be open tender or open competitive bidding?

What is the timeframe for establishing this centre?

Answer:

United States Studies Centre

Is this \$25 million already budgeted? If so, under which output group and budget line?

The funding was provided for in the *Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements* for 2005-06, table 1.1, Outcome 2.

What process will be followed to allocate funding for the centre?

The Australian Government will provide funding to the American Australian Association Ltd (AAA) which will, in consultation with the Government, oversee the establishment and ongoing operation of the Centre at an Australian university.

Will [the process] be open tender or competitive bidding?

The AAA will administer a tender process open to all Australian Universities to host the centre.

What is the time frame for establishing this centre?

It is anticipated that a tender process will commence during July, with the selection of the partner institution to take place later in the second half of 2006. It is anticipated that the Centre will commence operations from the 2008 academic year.