

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.5 – Assistance for post school students including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E739_04

Senator Crossin asked on 18 February 2004. EWRE Hansard page 49.

Question:

Are the now finalised terms of reference available?

Answer:

Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council - Terms of Reference

Yes, please find attached.

Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC) TERMS OF REFERENCE

Objective

The Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council will provide policy advice to the Minister for Education, Science and Training aimed at producing successful outcomes for Indigenous students and staff in relation to their participation, progression, and retention in both study and employment in higher education. This advice could extend to identifying enabling strategies such as Indigenous staff and student engagement in university decision-making and with Indigenous communities and stakeholders.

Functions

The Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council will provide policy advice to the Minister on:

- Improving student outcomes including:
 - improving access, progression, and completion;
 - articulation from vocational education courses;
 - institutional support for Indigenous students

- The role of Indigenous Support/Education Units including:
 - student support
 - funding mechanisms
 - teaching, academic, and research roles

- Strategies for enhancing the employment opportunities and career paths for Indigenous higher education staff

- Best practice in Indigenous education in course content such as:
 - Indigenous-specific units in teaching, health, justice, and social work courses
 - mandatory units in Indigenous studies across mainstream courses

- Promotion and protection of Indigenous intellectual property within higher education.

To undertake these roles IHEAC will:

- critically monitor student academic outcomes and staff participation;
- make recommendations to the Minister for awards under the Indigenous Staff Scholarship Programme;
- convene an annual conference on Indigenous higher education, which will include:
 - discussion of policy issues, research developments, sector and institutional achievements, successful innovations and best practice measures;
 - presentation of Indigenous staff scholarships; and
 - presentation of the Neville Bonner student scholarship.

It is anticipated that the Council will meet up to three times a year.