

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E888_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

- a) Have you had discussions with representatives of Campion College, which is planning to open in Sydney in 2005?
- b) This is a private Catholic liberal-arts college. Can you provide the Committee with any information about this college?
- c) Has it sought accreditation with the NSW authorities? Is it planning to seek recognition as a self-accrediting entity, or will it seek accreditation for its courses, one by one?
- d) Have you advised the people associated with this college on what it will need to do to achieve Commonwealth recognition as a higher education provider?
- e) Is this college planning to offer courses in Teacher Education or Nursing? Will the Commonwealth allocate any funded teaching and/or nursing places to this college?
- f) What kind of fee levels is it planning to charge?

Answer:

- a) The Higher Education Group in DEST has not had any discussions with representatives of Campion College.
- b) Campion College's website states:
 - the proposal to establish Campion College Australia emerged from the Campion Fellowship, a national association of Australian Catholics formed in 1973;
 - the mission of Campion College is to educate future leaders of society and the Church in Australia by a broad program of learning in the Liberal Arts, and to evangelise young people to the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church; and
 - Campion College Australia is being developed as a private institution offering a baccalaureate degree in the Liberal Arts and a range of professional degrees at the postgraduate level.

Further information is available on the College's website at: <http://www.campion.org.au/>

- c) According to the NSW Department of Education and Training (NSW DET), the College intends to make application as a non self-accrediting provider to deliver a Liberal Arts degree in 2005, but it has not yet applied. NSW DET has also held preliminary discussions with Campion College regarding the NSW requirements for university status.

- d) DEST has not advised members of the College about the process necessary to become a higher education provider. Information is available to all providers seeking approval as higher education providers, on the DEST website at:
<http://www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au/implementation/hep.htm>

- e) According to its website, the College plans in the future to offer postgraduate qualifications in teaching. The website does not mention plans to offer courses in nursing.

The Minister has not yet determined the allocation of funded national priority places in teaching and nursing. DEST will call for expressions of interest in May 2004, for the 2005 commencing places, from private higher education providers which already have status under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and also from providers that have lodged an application for approval as a higher education provider. Any allocations made to providers applying for higher education provider status in 2004 will be contingent upon their being approved as such in 2004.

- f) DEST has no knowledge of the level of fees Campion College is proposing to charge.