

## 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. E907\_04**

*Refers E433\_04 and E470\_04*

Senator Carr provided in writing

#### **Question:**

The BAF Newsletter no.6 (p.7) says:

“Teaching and nursing have been identified as initial areas of National Priority.”  
On p.8 you go on to note that ICT and teaching of Indigenous students at Notre Dame University will also be funded.

- a) If teaching and nursing are the “identified areas of national priority”, under what provision are these other areas at Notre Dame funded?
- b) Are ICT and Indigenous Education areas of national priority? If so, then will other private institutions be able to apply for funding in these areas? If they will not, why not?
- c) If these areas are NOT areas of national priority, on what basis have these students and courses at Notre Dame been allocated funding under this heading?

#### **Answer:**

##### *National Priority Areas*

(a) The policy statement on national priorities identified the need to rationalise the currently Commonwealth supported places at the University of Notre Dame Australia in teaching, ICT and places occupied by Indigenous students at the Broome campus. The places in ICT, funded under the *Backing Australia's Ability* initiative, and the places for Indigenous students at the Broome campus, funded over some years by the Australian Government, will be included in the 1,400 places to be allocated to private higher education institutions under national priority areas.

(b) ICT and the education of Indigenous students are not areas of national priority across the higher education sector as a whole. Private institutions will be invited to apply for places in the identified national priority areas of teaching and nursing.

(c) As explained in (a), the currently funded places will continue to be supported as national priority places while the University continues to provide these places in teaching, ICT and the education of Indigenous students at the University of Notre Dame Australia.