

EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATE HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.3

DEST Question No. E947_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- a) What formal and informal links does the Department have with the relevant New Zealand authorities with regard to policy and regulation in the area of international education?
- b) Can you please provide details of these links, including dates of meetings, which Australian agencies and organisations are involved and so on?
- c) Are there cooperative or joint arrangements and/or activities? Please provide details.

Answer:

Collapse of international education providers in New Zealand

- a) New Zealand is a member of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and The Australian Education Systems Officials Committee (AESOC) which include on their agendas issues relating to international education.

The Department works cooperatively with New Zealand for the mutual benefit of education and training in both countries. It has an ongoing consultative relationship for the recognition of qualifications.

The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) provides a framework for the recognition of qualifications relating to registered occupations. The Committee on Regulatory Reform (CRR) of the Council of Australian Governments monitors the TTMRA on an ongoing basis. CRR is currently undertaking an evaluation of the scheme and reports to the Heads of Government as appropriate on the operation of the scheme.

- b) MCEETYA meets annually and AESOC five times each year. New Zealand also has the opportunity to participate in Taskforces and Working Parties of these groups that meet during the year.

As part of the CRR evaluation of TTMRA, the Productivity Commission has published an *Evaluation of the Mutual Recognition Schemes: Research Report, 8 October 2003*. Details of related links, including dates of meetings, are provided in this Report.

- c) It is the responsibility of individual organisations and authorities to develop cooperative arrangements and activities relevant to their own requirements.