

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E518_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

University of Newcastle plagiarism case

- a) What discussions have been held by the Department with the University of Newcastle over the ICAC investigation into the plagiarism case involving international students at the Malaysian campus of that University?
- b) What has been the outcome?
- c) Has the ICAC reported?
- d) Will DEST be considering the report?
- e) Will DEST act on that report?
- f) How?
- g) Has the AUQA had this matter referred to it by DEST or by the Minister?
- h) If not, why not?
- i) What action has the AUQA taken?

Answer:

University of Newcastle plagiarism case

- a) The matter has been discussed as part of the Institutional Assessment Framework and also with the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Saunders.
- b) The University of Newcastle has advised the Department of Education, Science and Training of its ongoing measures to improve the identification and handling of plagiarism allegations.
- c) No.
- d) If the ICAC report is made publicly available, yes.
- e) and f) This depends on the recommendations made in the report and whether any action for the Department arises from consideration of them.
- g) and h) No, because AUQA's responsibilities do not include investigating specific complaints about individual universities.
- i) The AUQA will consider quality improvements made in the University's policies and procedures for offshore programs through its standard follow-up monitoring of the implementation of audit report recommendations as well as in subsequent audits.