

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. E755_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- a) Why did the Government decide to omit the provision that would have added Melbourne University Private to a list of recognised institutions on HESA from its Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill (no 3) 2004?
- b) Has DEST held discussions with Melbourne University Private, either preceding the revision of the Bill or following that decision?
- c) What has been the nature of those discussions?
- d) Has DEST held discussions with the Victorian Government, after 31 August 2004, about recognition of Melbourne University Private as a self-accrediting university, or germane matters?
- e) What has been the nature of those discussions, and the outcome?

Answer:

Melbourne University Private

- a) The *Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill (no 3) 2004*, when reintroduced in December 2004, did not include a provision to add Melbourne University Private to Table B of the HESA because the Senate Enquiry report into this matter (of August 2004) made it clear that the other measures contained in the Bill would be supported if the MUP measure was omitted.
- b) Yes.
- c) To brief MUP that the Government intended to reintroduce a Bill to add MUP to Table B at a later date.
- d) & e) Yes. DEST has made enquiries to the Victorian Department of Education and Training about whether MUP met the conditions imposed by Minister Kosky. DEST was informed that MUP had met the conditions.