

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome 3
Output Group: 3.3 – Support for the Australian education and training export industry and international relationships.

DEST Question No. E756_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to DEST Question No. E159_04 AdvTech media release 5/8/04

Question:

Has the Department looked into the possibility of adverse side effects of the closure of the Bond University South African MBA program, and the Bond SA campus by the South African owners, AdvTech?

What other Australian ventures in international education remain operating in South Africa? Does AEI have an office in South Africa? How many people are employed there?

Did IDP have an office in South Africa? Has it recently closed this office? Will AEI be moving to take over any or all of the operations of IDP in South Africa? Please provide details?

Answer:

Bond University South Africa

Bond University's South African operation was subject to audit by both the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) and the South African Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC). When Bond University ended its South African operation, an AUQA Audit Panel judged that Bond had provided a satisfactory range of alternative pathways that should enable all students to conclude their studies. An AUQA audit panel checked with the HEQC regarding monitoring of this process and was satisfied with the arrangement.

The Department does not formally collect information on Australian ventures in South Africa, but is aware that Monash South Africa is in operation and that one TAFE provider was operating there in 2003 (disaggregated data on TAFE offshore delivery is not available).

In response to cash flow difficulties IDP publicly announced in December 2004 that it would make a strategic shift from market diversification to market consolidation, closing a number of offices including its office in Johannesburg. AEI does not have an office in South Africa. While AEI considers this region to be important, there are no current plans to establish an office there as providers can utilise the services of Austrade and the High Commission to provide assistance or support in South Africa. The Department will continue to pursue close working cooperation through diplomatic representatives in Australia.