

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. E776_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to DEST Question No. E755_04.

Question:

Can you provide a response to the question asked in QON E755_04?

Can you provide copies of letters or other advice provided to DFAT about implications of the US Free Trade Agreement?

Answer:

US Free Trade Agreement

We have previously provided a response to this question. A response was provided following advice sought from our Legal area, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Prime Minister and Cabinet and our Minister.

Our previous response is attached.

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DEST Question No. E755_04

Senator Carr asked on 20 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 38.

Question:

Did you (DEST) provide advice to DFAT on these matters ie relating to education services and the Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA)? Can we have copies of those letters?

Answer:

Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AEI)

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) did engage in correspondence with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on matters relating to education services and the Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA).

It is not appropriate to provide this correspondence, as it is in the nature of policy advice provided in the course of policy development and does not in itself provide a complete picture of the AUSFTA negotiation process, or the outcomes of the FTA. The correspondence was part of the negotiating history of the AUSFTA which included the Government developing its mandate and scope for the agreement.

The final text of the AUSFTA is available on the DFAT website at http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/us_fta/final-text/index.html