

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. E805_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Is the Department aware of an item on the website daiwen.com/news3 that refers to the University of NSW as “Australia’s most corrupt university”?

The website goes on to discuss some of the events surrounding the case of alleged scientific fraud involving Prof Bruce Hall.

- a) What is the Department doing to counter this and similar negative descriptions of UNSW and other Australian universities?
- b) How many times have such incidences of negative publicity about our universities, appearing in the international arena, been drawn to your attention?
- c) What action has been taken?

Answer:

UNSW: Reputation in China

The Department of Education, Science and Training was not aware of the above-mentioned item on the website daiwen.com/news3 until Senator Carr’s question.

- a) The Department works to enhance Australia’s education profile in various ways. Through Australian Education International (AEI) it works internationally to promote Australia’s education, science and training capabilities through a range of strategies including brand positioning, promotional events, marketing materials, the multilingual *Study in Australia* website and in-country communication campaigns. In Australia, the *Goingtouni* website and other publications promote the higher education sector.
- b) The Department has not had a site of this nature brought to its attention previously.
- c) The Department’s offshore staff monitor local media and major publications for articles relating to Australia as a study destination. If an article has appeared which does not accurately represent the situation in Australia, the Department may provide a response through a letter to the editor. The matter may also be referred to a particular university.