

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.1 – Funding for Vocational Education and Training

#### **DEST Question No. E823\_05**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

*The National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training 2002* identifies the following trends:

- An increase in enrolments at Certificates III and IV, and a corresponding decrease at levels I and II, for Indigenous students;
- A relatively low participation rate in New Apprenticeships;
- A reduction in the average number of curriculum hours since 1996;
- In general, lower participation and completion and module pass rates than other students.

Does DEST use the findings of this annual report to inform research directions and priorities? If so, what research has arisen, or will be undertaken or commissioned, about these matters? Please provide details.

#### **Answer:**

*The National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training 2002*

The findings mentioned in *The National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training 2002* have been used to inform a range of research directions and priorities.

A broad national strategy to achieve equitable outcomes for Indigenous people in vocational education and training (VET) was released in 2000 entitled *Partners in a Learning Culture: a Blueprint for Implementation*. A mid-term review of this Blueprint conducted in 2003 found that progress on implementing the Blueprint had been patchy and renewed emphasis and attention was needed in many parts of the VET system.

The review, along with data such as that provided in the *National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training 2002* provided a basis for a strategic national program of Indigenous VET research. *The Indigenous Australians in vocational education and training: National research strategy for 2003-2006* was developed by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) and the Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council (AITAC). The strategy aims to contribute to achieving the objectives of *Partners in a learning culture* by improving training and its associated employment and social benefits for Indigenous Australians. A major survey of Indigenous VET students throughout Australia was conducted by NCVER in 2004 and first findings have been released. Findings from this survey should inform further work in improving training outcomes for Indigenous people in remote communities.

The *National research strategy* will also inform on the importance of other issues including mentoring and social/financial support for Indigenous youth in education and training, and access and retention of Indigenous Australians in New Apprenticeships. Details of the National Research Strategy are at [www.ncver.edu.au](http://www.ncver.edu.au).