

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E821_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Australian Technical Colleges - Basis for funding

1. In answer to QON 3755, you say that ATC funding “is not provided on a per-student basis”.
 - a. How are operational funding levels determined or calculated?
 - b. I note that there seems to be no clear linear relationship between funding levels and projected student numbers. What factors influence the funding to be provided?
2. Can you confirm that these colleges will also be eligible – provided that they meet relevant requirements – for Commonwealth per-student recurrent funding, whether as non-government or government schools?
3. Will they be eligible for funding under all schools programs administered by DEST – capital, establishment grants, STEA etc – depending of course on whether they are government or non-government schools?
4. Have you provided any such funding to any of the ATCs that opened in 2006? Please provide details of all funding provided.
5. Could there be a situation where a non-government ATC was established that did not meet the requirements for state registration, and other eligibility requirements for Commonwealth recurrent per-capita funding? Is there any ATC that currently is in that situation? Please provide details.
6. Let’s take as an example Port Macquarie ATC. It is a non-government ATC, isn’t it?
7. Suppose its SES score entitled it to the highest level of Commonwealth recurrent funding per student, and supposing it had 325 students this year, as projected, how much in total would it get from the Commonwealth in operating or recurrent funding? How much of that would it get if it were just an ordinary non-government school, as opposed to an ATC?

Answer:

Australian Technical Colleges - Basis for funding

1. Operational costs for each Australian Technical College were negotiated on an individual basis with the successful proponent for each College, taking into account:
 - number of students;
 - number of campuses/regional spread and size of region being covered;
 - access arrangements for students in outlying areas;
 - whether teaching/trade training is in-house or outsourced;

- equipment needs of Colleges; and
- whether the College is associated with an existing school (eg. may leverage services at lower cost).

2-3 Yes, provided the Colleges meet the relevant requirements.

4. No additional funding has been provided to Australian Technical Colleges that opened in 2006 through DEST administered schools programmes except for General Recurrent Grants (GRG) funding. The only College that received GRG funding in 2006 was the Australian Technical College – Port Macquarie, which received \$5,359 per student.
5. All Australian Technical Colleges which have applied for school registration in their state have been granted registration and are eligible to apply for Commonwealth GRG funding.
6. The Australian Technical College – Port Macquarie is a non-government school.
7. This is a hypothetical question and does not reflect actual funding levels.