

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. E872_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Australian Technical Colleges

1. Will Australian Technical Colleges that are non-government providers be eligible for:
 - a. Establishment Grants;
 - b. Per-capita funding under the Schools Assistance Act; and/or
 - c. Capital funding?
2. Will ATCs in general be eligible for:
 - a. Investing in Our Schools funding; and/or
 - b. Funding under any other relevant program?
3. What measures do you have in place, or will you put in place, to prevent double-dipping with respect to these programs, or other DEST programs?
4. Where states and territories have in place, or are developing, their own technical college systems, is the Department working in cooperation with them in the development of ATCs? Can you provide details in each case?
5. Is DEST working with the NSW Government in relation to the planned Lismore/Ballina ATC, especially given that the NSW Government has established one of its Trade Schools at Ballina High School?
6. Will there be a formal relationship between that Trade School and the ATC in Ballina/Lismore? What will that relationship consist of?

Answer:

Eligibility of Australian Technical Colleges (ATCs) for other schools programme funding

1. Australian Technical Colleges are eligible to apply for funding under the following programmes if they can satisfy the eligibility criteria for that particular programme:
 - a. Establishment Grants;
 - b. Per-capita funding under the Schools Assistance Act; and/or
 - c. Capital funding.
2. Australian Technical Colleges are able to apply for Investing in Our Schools funding and funding under any other relevant program if they can satisfy the eligibility criteria for that particular programme.

3. Under the terms of the Funding Agreement for Australian Technical Colleges, all Colleges must declare all sources of income and submit to DEST a quarterly statement of their income and expenditure. DEST will monitor financial status reports.
4. DEST has worked with State Governments in the establishment and operation of Australian Technical Colleges. The Programme has been regularly discussed at Ministerial Councils and Senior Officials meetings of both the schools and vocational training and education sectors throughout 2005 and 2006. Consultations have also taken place in States and Territories, including consultation regarding the development and approval of the curriculum for Colleges and satisfying State/Territory requirements for school registration.

Three States responded to the original Expression of Interest regarding the establishment of Australian Technical Colleges. A number of states are actively involved in the establishment of Colleges, including agreements for co-enrolment of students.

5. Not at this time.
6. It is not possible to respond to this question at this time as a suitable proposal for the Lismore/Ballina Region has not yet been received.