

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E087_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003.

Question:

- a) Will the planned National Governance Protocols also emphasise the importance of strong stakeholder representation on university governing bodies?
- b) Will their presence be specified in the Protocols?
- c) Which stakeholder groups will be specifically referred to in the Protocols as essential members of governing bodies?

Answer:

Governance Protocols

- a) The government has published a list of National Governance Protocols for public higher education institutions at Attachment A of its Policy Statement. The National Governance Protocols require a majority of external independent members on the governing body and that each member appointed should be responsible and accountable for the governing body (council) and act solely in the interests of the university rather than as a delegate or representative of a particular constituency. The protocols also require the University to adopt systematic procedures for the nomination of prospective members of the governing body for appointment by the Governor in Council, the relevant Minister, or the Council itself. The institution is to publicly nominate at least one preferred candidate for any current or imminent vacancy on the governing body to be appointed by the Governor in Council of relevant Minister.
- b) The Protocols do not specify the stakeholders but specifically exclude current members of any State or Commonwealth Parliament or legislative assembly.
- c) See (b) above.