

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 2

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

#### **DEST Question No. E070\_05**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

In Campus Review, 4-11 May 2004, Page 5, Geoff Maslen reports that between 1997 and 2002 the States increased spending on TAFE and VET by \$340m, while the Commonwealth increased its allocation by only \$19 million. Are these figures correct and if so how can DEST continue to refuse to provide growth funds unless the States match them?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Commonwealth Increased Allocation*

The source of the information cited in the Campus Review article is not given, however the information appears to relate to recurrent revenues data published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research under its vocational education and training financial information series. Recurrent revenue is a significant element, but is not fully representative of jurisdictions' total contributions to VET. The NCVET information, also, is not directly aligned with the scope of the ANTA Agreement.

Information on the total amount appropriated annually by the Commonwealth for the ANTA Agreement is presented in the Vocational Education and Training Funding Act (VETFA). Funds under this Act are for allocation to the States and Territories in accordance with the ANTA Agreement, and for agreed national projects.

- Analysis of the amounts appropriated annually under VETFA shows a total increase in funding of \$146.2 million between 1997 and 2002. This is equal to an increase of 16.1%.
- Analysis of State and Territory annual recurrent funding for VET shows a total increase in funding of \$340.1 million between 1997 and 2002. This is equal to an increase of 16.0%.