

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E096_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to E760_04

Question:

- a) Has the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation written to DEST about its concerns about the activities and courses of Victoria University in Hong Kong?
- b) What are the concerns of the Hong Kong authorities? What action has DEST taken with regard to this matter?
- c) Are you aware that this Council has written to the University itself, following information received about the contents of the review of the University's operations, which mentioned specifically its international activities and programs?
- d) Have you discussed the concerns of the Hong Kong authorities with the University? What has been the outcome?

Answer:

Victoria University's international education activities

The response to parts b), c) and d) has been provided by Victoria University:

- a) No. The HKCAA did not and has not expressed concerns about the courses or activities of Victoria University in Hong Kong to DEST and no action has been taken in this matter.
- b) The allegations of dissatisfaction appeared in a newspaper article in Hong Kong, and did not come from the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA).
- c) The HKCAA did not write to Victoria University. Victoria University itself contacted the Council following inaccurate media reporting that the HKCAA was concerned with Victoria University's Hong Kong operations.
- d) Victoria University has supplied DEST with a copy of its letter to the HKCAA and has advised DEST that the HKCAA has re-iterated its satisfaction with the status and delivery of Victoria University programs in Hong Kong.