

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.3 – AEI Group

DEST Question No. E158_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Last time I asked you about cooperation with the New Zealand authorities over marketing and regulation in the field of international education.

Can you provide details of the interactions with New Zealand in this area – including joint activities or projects, meetings etc?

What effect do trade and similar economic agreements between New Zealand and Australia have on cooperation and competition in the field of international education between the two countries?

Answer:

Cooperation and competition in international education

Although there is often no direct effect on cooperation and competition in international education as a result of trade and similar economic agreements between Australia and New Zealand, close cooperation between Australia and New Zealand in education and training matters including international, may in part be attributed to the close ties formed through the various trade agreements we are party to together.

The Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) Trade Agreement (1983) has assisted in closely integrating the Australian and New Zealand economies and business environments and has resulted in strong links between the two countries. The CER Agreement provides the backdrop for many other Agreements between Australia and NZ including the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (1988).

The Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement is between the Australian and New Zealand Governments and the Governments of the Australian States and Territories. It provides that goods that may legally be sold in either country may be sold in the other and that a person who is registered to practise an occupation in either country is entitled to practise an equivalent occupation in the other.

Despite cooperation in education and training in areas for mutual benefit, it is worth mentioning that Australia and New Zealand have competitive international education sectors that operate separately.