

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. E159_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

South African Government review of foreign MBA programs

- a) Are you aware that the South African Government – its Council on Higher Education – is about to complete a review of MBA programs offered in the country, including those offered by private and foreign providers (through franchises)?
- b) Have you seen a copy of the report of this review, or a draft? What are the review's conclusions about Australian providers' MBA programs offered in South Africa?
- c) Please provide a list of Australian providers offering MBAs in South Africa, including private providers.
- d) Have you undertaken, or will you undertake, discussions with the South African authorities about any adverse or critical conclusions about Australian MBAs that they may come to? Please provide a report to the Committee.

Answer:

South African Government review of foreign MBA programs

- a) The Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) is aware that the South African Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) have completed a peer review process on the re-accreditation of MBA programs. It is one part of a larger national agenda by the CHE and HEQC towards quality assurance and quality improvement of higher education in South Africa.
- b) DEST is also aware that the HEQC is preparing a report on the review of the MBA re-accreditation process as well as preparing recommendations and strategies to enhance the quality of MBAs.

DEST has not received a copy, or a draft copy, of the report on the peer review of re-accreditation of MBA programs and notes that the CHE website states that the report will be published as an issue of the CHE series *Higher Education Monitor* towards the end of 2004.
- c) In accordance with the requirements under the *Higher Education Funding Act* (HEFA), DEST collects information from all public Australian higher education providers.

There is no legislative requirement for private Australian higher education providers to report similar information to DEST. Despite this, some higher education providers, such as Bond University, volunteer to provide information.

According to the latest statistics collected by DEST (2003), the only Higher Education provider reporting to DEST that offered an MBA in South Africa in 2003 was Bond University (Queensland).

d) DEST has not undertaken discussions with the South African Authorities on the conclusions of the review on the re-accreditation of MBA programs.