

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education.

DEST Question No. E027_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council

- (a) Who appointed the members of the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council?
- (b) Who was consulted? Were organisations invited to nominate persons to become members? Which organisations?
- (c) Was ATSIC consulted? Was ATSIC's advice followed? Before its demise, did ATSIC have a representative or nominee on the Council?
- (d) On what date was the Council formed? When was it announced? Why did it not meet in 2003 or in 2004, before the Parliament was prorogued?
- (e) Will the Council be able to act on its own reference? Or does it simply consider matters put to it by the Minister? Which Minister?
- (f) Can the Chair speak publicly on behalf of the Council? Or must the Minister authorise public statements? Which Minister?
- (g) Please provide a copy of the guidelines and terms of reference applying to the operation and composition of this body?

Answer:

- (a) The Hon Brendan Nelson MP, Minister for Education, Science and Training appointed the members of the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC).
- (b) Organisations which expressed an interest in the Indigenous Higher Education reforms were invited to a roundtable in 2003 to provide advice on the membership of IHEAC. Following the roundtable the following key higher education stakeholder organisations were invited to nominate persons for IHEAC membership:

National organisations:

- National Indigenous Higher Education Network (NIHEN)
- The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)
- The Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee (AVCC)
- The National Indigenous Postgraduate Association Aboriginal Corporation (NIPAAC)
- The Indigenous Student Network (ISN) which is part of the National Union of Students (NUS)
- Indigenous Research Committee
- Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council (AITAC)

State and Territory groups or institutions:

- NSW and ACT Higher Education Network Aboriginal Corporation (HENAC)
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)
- Charles Darwin University
- The University of Tasmania
- The Western Australian Aboriginal Council on Higher Education
- The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated Committee of Management in conjunction with its Higher Education Specialist representative (Victorian IECG Working Party on Higher Education)
- South Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee nomination – Flinders University
- Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Body

- (c) ATSIC did not have a representative or nominee on the Council.
- (d) IHEAC membership was finalised in the first half of 2004 and announced in August of that year. The first meeting for IHEAC, planned for December 2004, was delayed due to Parliament being prorogued for the 2004 election and the subsequent confirmation of machinery of government changes.
- (e) IHEAC will act within its Terms of Reference (attached) and will provide policy advice to the Minister for Education, Science and Training.
- (f) IHEAC is a non-statutory advisory body. Its Chair and members can issue public statements at their discretion.
- (g) The Terms of Reference and Operating Guidelines for IHEAC are attached.