# EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome:2Output Group:2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

# DEST Question No. E046\_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

### Question:

- a) What discussions has the Department held with UWS and Macquarie Universities about their recent decisions to pull out of campus operations in Singapore?
- b) What are the reasons for these decisions?
- c) What is your understanding about future arrangements between these universities and providers or companies in Singapore, to continue their operations?
- d) Has either university incurred financial losses in these ventures?
- e) What are the details of those losses?
- f) Have you been approached by either university for financial, legal or other assistance in relation to these pullout actions?
- g) What arrangements have been made for existing students at these universities' Singapore campuses to complete their studies?
- h) How will that be financed in each case?
- i) What are the implications and lessons for other Australian universities including Newcastle and UNSW in the failure of the UWS and Macquarie joint ventures with Singapore companies and other entities?
- j) Have you (International Group) or has any other Group or unit in DEST, had discussions with the University of Newcastle about its plans for a campus in Singapore? What was the nature of those discussions?
- k) Has the University revised its plans in the light of its financial problems?
- I) How is it financing its Singapore venture?
- m) What are the details of this venture?

### Answer:

### Singapore Campuses of Australian Universities

- a) The Department has not had recent discussions with the University of Western Sydney or Macquarie University about their operations in Singapore.
- b) See a) above.

- c) See a) above.
- d) Financial information relating to the Singapore operations is not available in the two Universities' 2004 audited financial statements.
- e) See d) above.
- f) No.
- g) Both the University of Western Sydney and Macquarie University have stated publicly their commitment to the students in Singapore and in ensuring that the students complete their degrees.
- h) The Department does not have this information.
- i) The Department has identified and communicated to the universities the need for them to continue to focus on the management of financial and quality risks that may be associated with the expansion of international student operations. Universities are large autonomous institutions and would be expected to have processes in place to manage the business risks associated with their operations in particular markets.
- j) No.
- k) The Department does not have this information.
- I) See k) above.
- m) See k) above.