

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E073_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 98.

Question:

I want to know whether or not a letter was written by the minister of the department or whether the department assisted the minister in writing a letter to the states requiring them to change their laws to allow part-time school apprenticeships, which, of course, would be used in the Australian Technical Colleges.

Answer:

School-Based New Apprenticeships

The Department has not assisted the Minister to prepare such a letter and is unaware of any such letter being sent to State Ministers.

It should be noted however, that at the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) meeting on 3 June 2005, COAG noted that "a more responsive and flexible national apprenticeship, vocational education and training, and skills recognition system is vital to meeting both current and future skills needs". COAG also agreed that "the creation of a genuinely national approach to apprenticeships and training will help Australia respond to its skills shortages and provide more opportunities for young Australians".

COAG agreed to "establish a joint Commonwealth-State working group to address the barriers across the VET system to achieving such a national approach" including an examination of "enabling school-based apprenticeships and ensuring maximum flexibility in training for employers and apprentices". The working group will provide its report to COAG on options and recommendations, including an implementation proposal, in December 2005.