

## 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. E109\_06

Senator Allison provided in writing.

#### Question:

Australian Technical Colleges:

- a. Can you provide us with an update of how the establishment of these is progressing? How many of the proposed 24 colleges will be operating by 2006?
- b. How are the states supporting this initiative? Are there any states who are not willing to support it? (*if yes, which ones?*)
- c. How have TAFEs responded to the initiative? How many technical colleges do you expect will have TAFE involvement?
- d. Do you have an idea of possible fee structures for the colleges? How many of the colleges are likely to be classified as government schools?

#### Answer:

*Australian Technical Colleges*

- a. The Request for Proposals to establish and operate Australian Technical Colleges in each of the 24 specified regions was released on 30 March and closed on 20 May. 73 proposals were received. The first 12 Colleges to be established in 2006 and 2007 were announced on 15 July 2005. Colleges will be established in Illawarra, Port Macquarie, Bairnsdale/Sale, Bendigo, Eastern Melbourne, Geelong, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Townsville, and Darwin. In addition, two Colleges will be established in Adelaide. It is expected that five of these Colleges will be ready to commence operations in 2006. Colleges in the remaining regions are expected to be announced later this year.
- b. State governments are working cooperatively with the Australian Government to establish the Australian Technical Colleges and ensure the interests of students, industry and the community are met. All states support their establishment, subject to meeting the normal requirements such as registration of schools and teachers.  
  
Proposals to establish Australian Technical Colleges have been received from education departments, TAFE institutes and/or state schools in three states, while in others, TAFEs and state schools are involved as partners in many proposals.
- c. As noted above, TAFEs are actively involved in a number of proposals. As major providers of training in the trades which the Australian Technical Colleges will be offering, it is expected they will be involved in training provided by many of the Colleges.
- d. The fee structures and the number of Colleges based on state schools will not be known until the successful proposals have been selected and Funding Agreements have been finalised. A college based on an existing school may not charge any

additional fees (over and above existing fees levied at the school). If a new College is established it will have to justify the level of fees, and the impact of the level of fees on ensuring equitable access for students must be taken into account. In addition, the Request for Proposal required all applicants to outline strategies to enhance equitable access for all students. Scholarships to ensure access by disadvantaged students may be funded from the additional funding available for the Colleges.