

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.3 – Support for the Australian education and training export industry and international relationships.

DEST Question No. E270_06

Senator Carr asked on 2 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 94.

Question:

I would ask you to have a look at the report in the Financial Review on 23 May and take on notice whether or not you think the IELTS score is still appropriate, given the details that are revealed in that report.

Answer:

IELTS

The appropriate level of IELTS for entry to a university course is a matter for institutions. DEST does not have a role in determining this. Australian universities are responsible for their own admission and assessment practices, including those relating to the level of English language proficiency required for international students to successfully complete their intended course of study.

Universities generally require a score in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 depending on the nature of the course. Some individuals may also be accepted into a course with a score of 5.5, subject to their successful completion of preparatory English language tuition to gain the level required.

The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (the ESOS Act) and its associated *National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students* (the National Code) require all education and training providers to advise intending students of the level of English language skill required to successfully complete their intended course of study. Universities must also obtain evidence from students of their English language proficiency. This evidence must satisfy both the universities' admission policies and the relevant requirements of Australia's student visa regulations, as international students from designated countries must meet specific English language standards to gain a student visa.