

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training.
2.2 – New Apprenticeships

DEST Question No. E278_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Indigenous participation in VET

The National Report on Indigenous Education and Training 2003 reports a fall in Indigenous VET enrolments in 2003, of 2.8%.

This decline was confined to the government sector.

- (a) Has DEST undertaken, or commissioned, any research into the reasons for this?
- (b) Does DEST know what areas and types of courses are most affected? Is the trend uniform across states and territories?

Table A4.2 in the report shows a continuation of the trend evident in 2002 figures with regard to Certificate III - another slight increase - but reductions at Diploma, Certificate IV and Certificate II levels, and a partial recovery in enrolments at Certificate I.

- (c) To what factors does DEST attribute these complex patterns?

Answer:

Indigenous participation in VET

- (a) and (c) Indigenous VET enrolments have been variable over the last few years, so analysis of single year variations are unlikely to provide major insights. DEST will examine the 2004 data for any consistent trends in enrolments and report on Indigenous participation in the 2004 National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training.
- (b) *National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training 2003*, Tables A4.2-5 indicate that enrolment data are variable from 2001 to 2003 across different AQF levels, jurisdictions and subject areas.

Enrolment data provided through NCVET for 1999 to 2003 shows minor variation in total enrolments for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, but there has been an increase in the percentage of VET students who are Indigenous between 1999 and 2003.

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not Known
1999	3.1%	79.5%	17.5%
2000	3.0%	76.1%	20.9%
2001	3.3%	79.4%	17.3%
2002	3.5%	76.2%	20.3%
2003	3.4%	77.2%	19.5%

(Not known = Students have identified as neither Indigenous or non-Indigenous on enrolment)