

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. E287_06

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

Question:

1. How many contact hours at TAFE could be bought for the amount of money that the Commonwealth is spending on ATCs?
2. Did the government consider this?
3. Was DEST asked to calculate this by the government or was no consideration ever given to addressing Australia's vocational training needs through our existing public VET institutions?

Answer:

Australian Technical Colleges funding

Funding for the Australian Technical Colleges (ATC) initiative totals \$343.6 million over five years. The ATCs will be offering an integrated education program with direct involvement from industry that is much broader than existing trade training provision. Consequently, an assessment of the number of TAFE contact hours that could be purchased with this funding is not an appropriate comparison to determine the value for money of the initiative and such an assessment was not requested by the Australian Government.

The integrated program to be offered by the ATCs will enable students to simultaneously undertake a senior secondary certificate and part-time trade qualification while also attaining skills that are relevant to the needs of local industry. This type of education and training provision is not currently offered through existing public VET institutions. The Australian Government considered the establishment of ATCs with direct involvement from local industry and community groups to be the best means of delivering such a model.