

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education.

DEST Question No. E314_06

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

Can you give some background about the Australian Doctors Fund?

Who are they?

Who do they represent?

On what basis were the ADF identified for consultation (if they were consulted)?

Are you aware of any prominent members of the ADF?

Answer:

Australian Doctors Fund

- The ADF's website (<http://www.adf.com.au>) indicates that :
 - The Australian Doctors' Fund commenced operation in April 1989 for the purpose of "strengthening, defending and promoting the patient-doctor relationship".
 - The Australian Doctors' Fund currently has 5,000 contributors and accepts contributions from anyone.
 - The Memorandum of Association of the Australian Doctors' Fund states its principal objectives:
 - To maintain, improve, advance and promote the ethical standards, integrity and reputation of the medical profession,
 - To maintain, improve, advance and promote health care for all Australians and ensure that there is freedom of choice of health care,
 - To research, develop, establish and promote health care policies for the benefit of all Australians,
 - To increase the Medical Professions' awareness of the community's continuing and changing health care needs.
 - The ADF convened one of two recent national conferences on the issue of medical education and on this basis they were invited, along with other key stakeholders, to participate in the Roundtable discussions.
 - The current Chairman of the ADF is Dr Bruce Shepherd.