

## 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. E394\_06**

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What are the different accountability requirements that Table B providers have in relation to -

- a. financial disclosure,
- b. financial accountability,
- c. employment practices, and
- d. admission procedures

as compared to Table A providers?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Different accountability requirements*

- a. All higher education providers approved under Division 16 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act), including the Table B providers, are required under s.19-10 of the Act to provide the Minister with a financial statement for each financial reporting period, in a form approved by the Minister, within 6 months after the end of the reporting period. A report on the financial statement by an independent qualified auditor must also be provided with the financial statement.
- b. All higher education providers approved under Division 16 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act), including the Table B providers, are to acquit the Australian Government financial assistance provided through the Education, Science and Training Portfolio in a note to the audited financial statements and also provide a certification as part of the audited financial statements, jointly signed by the CEO and a member of the governing board, that the amount of Commonwealth financial assistance expended during the reporting period was for the purposes for which it was provided.
- c. All Table A providers are required to comply with the Government's Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements; the Government's Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements are only compulsory for Table B providers which have received Commonwealth funding for National Priority places.
- d. Subdivision 19-D of the Act requires all higher education providers to treat fairly all of its students and those seeking to enrol with the provider.