

## 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. E411\_06

Senator Carr provided in writing

#### Question:

Can the department confirm that, in the opening address to the 'Rescuing Medical Education' conference in Sydney on 18 February 2005, the Minister, Dr Nelson, described himself as a fifteen-year 'contributor to the Australian Doctors Fund'?

What is the role of the Australian Doctors Fund (ADF) in the review of medical education announced by Dr Nelson at this conference?

Will the ADF receive any Commonwealth funding or subsidy, or other assistance, in relation to this review? How much, and for what purposes or services?

Does the ADF hold a particular view in the debate about problem-based learning versus traditional approaches in medical education? What view is that?

#### Answer:

##### *Australian Doctors Fund*

- The transcript of the conference shows that, in the opening address to the 'Rescuing Medical Education' conference in Sydney on 18 February 2005, the Minister stated 'For fifteen years I have and I continue to be a contributor to the Australian Doctors Fund.'
- The ADF were invited, along with other key stakeholders, to participate in an initial Roundtable to identify critical issues for the study of medical education. All participants in the Roundtable, including the ADF, have been invited to nominate members to participate on a Steering Committee for the medical study.
- Participants in the Steering Committee may receive reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of that participation.
- The ADF's website (<http://www.adf.com.au>) indicates that, following the recent conference on medical training, it is calling for a balance between medical and social science, theory and practice, didactic teaching and problem based learning in all curricula.