

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

#### Outcome

#### DEST Question No. E117\_08

Senator Crossin asked on 31 May 2007, EWRE Hansard page 83.

#### Question:

**Senator CROSSIN**—I understand that in March the new boarding facility that we all opened with great fanfare 18 months ago was closed because it did not comply with fire regulations. Has that been fixed?

**Mr Greer**—My understanding of this is that an interim certificate of occupancy that the college had had. I am not sure—

**Senator CROSSIN**—When it was opened?

**Mr Greer**—Yes. I am not sure whether that interim certificate was secured by the current administration or the previous administration. In any event, the interim certificate of occupation lapsed. Having lapsed, it does not have a certificate of occupation. This is about fire safety.

**Senator CROSSIN**—Whose responsibility was that—the college administration's?

**Mr Greer**—Yes, it would have been the education authority there, which was the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation. But I am not certain at what time that was, under which administration it was—the previous administration or the administrator arrangements. I can certainly check those dates.

#### Answer:

#### *Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation*

The boarding facilities were officially opened at the Yulara campus of the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal College (the College) on 25 October 2005. The construction of the new facilities was undertaken by the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation).

A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy was issued for the new facilities covering the period 25 October 2005 to 24 January 2006. This Temporary Certificate of Occupancy was then renewed for a further three months to cover the period 25 January 2006 to 24 April 2006.

In January 2007 DEST was advised that a final Certificate of Occupancy had not been obtained for the new boarding facilities following the expiry of the Temporary Certificate in April 2006.

A fire-safety engineer was subsequently engaged to assess the work necessary to make the dormitories "fire-safe". A final report was received by the College on 10 July 2007. The College is examining the report to inform a decision on appropriate remedial action.