

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome

DEST Question No. E129_08

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

Are there Australian education representatives working in other countries to attract international students to Australia to study?

- If so, are these representatives employed by the Government, by individual universities, or by third parties?
- Are any of these representatives working in Zimbabwe?

Answer:

Attracting International Students

- Yes. Australian Education International, the international arm of the Department of Education, Science and Training has an International Network and is represented offshore in 26 locations across 18 economies. DEST works through its International Network to represent Australia's education, science and training interests overseas;
- The Network covers a range of activities including government-to-government linkages, promotion of the Australian education system and awareness raising of Australia's quality assurance regime amongst others, to assist in creating an understanding of the benefits of an Australian education;
- The International Network comprises both Australian based education counsellors and locally engaged staff;
- 16 education counsellors are employed by the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Science and Training while locally engaged staff are employed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- The Australian Government does not collect information on whether universities or other autonomous organisations have representatives working offshore specifically to promote Australian education and training. However, we are aware that many universities actively engage in the promotion of their institutions offshore at events such as Study in Australia fairs which occur frequently in locations where AEI is represented;
- There are currently no Australian Government education representatives in Africa, including Zimbabwe. We are not aware of any Australian education providers having representatives in Zimbabwe;
- We are aware that some States have officers working overseas, some of whom may have carriage for education related activities.