

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome

DEST Question No. E161_08

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

1. With regard to the review of the ESOS Act that commenced in 2004 and finalised in recent legislation – can you provide a run-down of the stages of the Review process, including formation of the steering committee, hiring of the consultants, public hearings, and redrafting of the Code?
2. How much has this review cost in total (including all related costs such as person-hours, travel costs, consultancies, venue hire, etc)?
3. Where did the money for this review come from? Was it a separate budget item allocated specific funding or did it come from existing funds?
4. When is the next review of the ESOS Act due to take place?
5. Was it expected that the review would take this long? If not, what was the reason for the delay?

Answer:

Education Services for Overseas Students

1.

Evaluation	Date / Timeline
ESOS Evaluation Steering Committee established	March 2004
Consultant engaged to conduct independent evaluation	June 2004
Report on the evaluation released	June 2005

Implementation	Date / Timeline
Consultations and drafting of National Code	July 2005 - September 2006
National Code 2007 approved by the Minister	October 2006
Legislative amendments (Royal Assent)	December 2006; May 2007
Date of effect of National Code	1 July 2007

2. The approximate cost of the evaluation was \$655 300. This includes the cost of the independent consultancy, staffing costs and travel and consultations during the evaluation process.
3. The funding for the evaluation was drawn from existing funds.
4. The ESOS Act does not specify a review period beyond the initial evaluation under S176A of the Act. It will be reviewable in 2012, consistent with Australian Government requirements for regulation, if not before.

5. The report of the evaluation was released approximately one year after the initial engagement of the consultant. In July 2006, the Minister proposed 1 July 2007 as the date of effect for the National Code 2007, which implemented many of the findings of the evaluation. This was to enable adequate consultation and finalisation of the Code and subsequently a suitable period of transition for providers.