

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.2 – Assistance for New Apprenticeships

DEST Question No. E353_04

Senator Marshall asked 5 November 2003.

Question:

Given the joint responsibility of the Commonwealth and State governments to ensure the quality in the training system and appropriate use of Commonwealth and State funding, can the Department outline the mechanisms it has in place to ensure that examples such as Broadscope where trainees undertaking Certificate III qualifications are standardly offered to be delivered in 8 or 10 days total training, do not occur?

Answer:

Quality of Training Issues Arising from Broadscope

Responsibility for receiving, examining and resolving complaints regarding the quality of training and for the registration and auditing of public and private training organisations in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) rests with State and Territory Governments.

The Australian Government has worked with the States and Territories to implement the AQTF to provide a clear, strong, set of national standards for training organisations, their staff and the services and products they deliver. The AQTF Standards for Registered Training Organisations strengthen and clarify requirements for training providers to support the improvement of their practices and the quality of their services.

Specifically, under the AQTF Standard 9 – Learning and assessment strategies, State and Territory Training Authorities audit the learning and assessment strategies that Registered Training Organisations must implement to meet the needs of each of its clients. The AQTF notes that States and Territories should apply sanctions in those circumstances where it is found that providers are not complying with agreed standards.

The Australian Government only pays incentives to employers of New Apprentices after the Training Contract has been approved by the State or Territory Training Authority and after evidence that a training plan has been negotiated between the employer and New Apprentice is provided. In addition, no incentives can be paid until a minimum three month waiting period and all State and Territory probation periods have been completed.