

## 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. E354\_04**

Senator Marshall asked 5 November 2003.

#### **Question:**

Can the Department indicate what action is being taken against those New Apprenticeships Centres who were involved in the Broadscope affair ie, where they processed approximately 7,500 trainees under the Certificate III Information Technology (Software Applications) in Victoria, as well as applications for incentives from the Commonwealth for at least 1,800 New Apprentices, when the qualifications were clearly inappropriate for the type of work New Apprentices were undertaking?

#### **Answer:**

*Action taken against New Apprenticeships Centres involved in Broadscope Pty Ltd.*

No evidence has been found to indicate that those New Apprenticeships Centres involved with Broadscope warrant action taken against them. The Department's investigation into the role of New Apprenticeships Centres has confirmed that, as early as December 2002, they raised concerns regarding Broadscope Ltd with the Victorian Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE).

The Victorian New Apprenticeships Centres agreed to assist OTTE in jointly undertaking a review of all employers delivering (or intending to deliver) the Certificate III Information Technology (Software Applications) qualification.

As part of the review process, the Department is assessing every incentive pending and paid against this qualification and further incentives will only be paid for those employers who have gone through the review and OTTE has advised that the training has been found to be appropriate.

It appears however, that employers and their trainees have signed the Training Contract in good faith and that New Apprenticeships Centre staff acted in accordance with obligations under the New Apprenticeships Support Services Contract. Moreover, it is evident that any assessments made by the New Apprenticeships Centres at signup were based on information that was current at that time from relevant Training Advisory Boards and State regulatory bodies.

In the next monitoring round in January/February 2004, it is the Department's intention to monitor and review additional targeted files relating to Victorian commencements in the Certificate III IT (Software Applications) with a specific focus on New Apprenticeships Centres' compliance with contract obligations and the New Apprenticeships Support Services Operational guideline requirements.