

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for Vocational Education and Training

DEST Question No. E367_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003

Question:

Does the Table in Attachment A (E164_04) confirm that of the Minister's offer for the new ANTA Agreement for 2004 to 2006:

- (a) The 'additional' \$218.7 million is a cumulative increase for the period?
- (b) That \$150 million, or 69%, of the increase is for indexation, to cover the costs of delivery – not for growth?
- (c) And that the remaining \$68.7 million is for the *Australians Working Together* initiative in the 2001-02 Budget and the *Recognising and Improving the Capacity*
- (d) With the net Effect being that the Minister's offer contains no new money for
 - o Growth
 - o Meeting unmet demand?

Answer:

New ANTA Agreement

- (a) The \$218.7 million is the total of the additional funds provided in 2004, 2005 and 2006, compared to the level of funding in 2003.
- (b) The \$150 million is an estimate of price increases over the period of the new ANTA Agreement, including price increases of \$13.5 million on the \$312 million in growth funding.
- (c) The \$68.7 million is funded by the *Australians Working Together (AWT)* initiative of the 2001-02 Budget and the *Recognising and Improving the Capacity of People with a Disability (RICP)* initiative of the 2002-03 Budget (subject to the passage of legislation).
- (d) The new Agreement offers \$325.5 million in growth funding, to be matched by the States and Territories. The offer for the Agreement provides total additional funding of \$218.7 million compared to the level of funding in 2003. The additional funding includes, in addition to indexation of \$150 million, funding for training under the AWT initiative and the RICP initiative (subject to the passage of legislation). The additional funding of \$218.7 million represents an average real increase of 2.5% per annum for training places, which will help address unmet demand. If States and Territories accept the offer and match the additional AWT and RICP funding, up to 71,000 additional places will be available over the three years of the new ANTA Agreement.