

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E430_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

(Refers Annual Report p.140)

I note that one of the consultancy contracts let in the last year was for “secretariat services” for the Review. It was for almost \$200 000.

- (a) Why was this necessary? Why could the review not be serviced through DEST?
- (b) Are these things always outsourced? Why?

Answer:

Review of Teaching and Teacher Education - Secretariat

(a) A small Secretariat for the Review was provided by DEST. The DEST secretariat was responsible for the development, on behalf of the Review Committee, of the four publications produced by the Review, servicing the Review Committee and Reference Group, arranging consultations with key stakeholders across the country, and managing the Review budget. The ‘secretariat services’ detailed in the Annual Report were for specific services provided by Secretariat Australia to support the work of the DEST Secretariat. This included managing two public submission processes including analysing and summarising 241 submissions, providing a literature review, research and information gathering, and distribution of the Review’s four publications to stakeholders. This was necessary because of the short timeframe in which the Review was undertaken and the urgency of the tasks to be undertaken.

(b) No. On this occasion certain ‘secretariat services’ were outsourced but the Review was managed and resourced by DEST staff. The extent of any outsourcing depends on particular circumstances, tasks and timeframes.