

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. E439_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003.

Question:

- a. What will be the Institute's functions?
 - Will it affect states' registration and accreditation of teachers?
 - Does it intend to accredit 'accomplished' and 'leading' teachers?

 - Or is it mainly an advisory and research body?
 - If so, who will it be advising? The Commonwealth only?

- b. What are its governance arrangements?
Who will be on its governing council?
How will they be appointed?
Elected?
Will unions be invited to nominate?
Other professional bodies?
Balance of interests and sectors (primary/secondary; early childhood?; government and non-government; universities/teacher educators; TAFE?).

- c. When will it begin to operate?

Answer:

National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership

- a. The National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership (NIQTSL) is a new initiative of the Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme (AGQTP) with a charter to deliver national approaches for building the quality and status of teaching and school leadership. While the key features of the Institute will be determined in consultation with the profession, it is envisaged the Institute will:
 - Complement and not duplicate what States and Territories do, particularly in relation to teacher registration.
 - Cover areas that require further national support and consolidation. These include:
 - school leadership – the Institute could develop and support both current and potential leaders, including through a national framework of standards for both professional growth and accreditation of leaders;
 - professional teaching standards - the Institute could support the national development and implementation of professional standards by the profession, including through the MCEETYA endorsed National Framework for Professional Standards for Teaching and by recognising/accrediting of teachers who achieve high professional standards;

- professional learning (both for teachers and school leaders) – the Institute could contribute to the development and implementation of a national framework for teacher professional learning aligned with professional standards;
 - quality assurance – the Institute could contribute to national quality assurance of Australian teacher education courses, other professional learning and the qualifications of people wishing to migrate to Australia as teachers; and
 - research – the Institute could provide national leadership, direction setting and sharing on research into best practice principles and approaches for quality school leadership and teaching.
- b. The Institute will be managed by the profession for the profession, with an express charter to deliver national approaches for building the quality and status of teaching and school leadership. A consultancy team consisting of the Allen Consulting Group, Gregor Ramsey and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu has been engaged to canvass the views of the profession and key stakeholders regarding the Institute's roles and functions, governance arrangements, relationship with other relevant bodies, operational matters, performance indicators and future funding arrangements. The Consultant's role is to consolidate views and develop options and make recommendations regarding the establishment of the NIQTSL. The Consultants are being supported by a Project Advisory Group that includes representatives of teachers, school principals associations, teacher unions, teacher employing authorities, vice chancellors of the Canberra-based universities, the Australian Council of Deans of Education, state-based teacher registration bodies and other key professional education associations. Outcomes from the consultation are expected by April 2004.
- c. The Institute is to be established in Canberra with the aim of having key aspects, particularly of the leadership element up and running in early 2004. Canberra is considered the appropriate location for such a national body.