

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.4 Assistance for transition through and from school

DEST Question No. E477_04

Senator Crossin asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

What information is available about the Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council? How often does it meet? Who are the members? What outcomes have been produced to date?

Answer:

Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council

The Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council (AITAC) is an advisory arm of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). It has four sub-committees, as listed below:

- Executive;
- Indigenous Policy;
- Management and Monitoring; and
- Communications.

AITAC meets twice a year, as well as forwarding work out-of-session. It contributes to the ANTA Board and through it, the ANTA Ministerial Council, to inform decisions in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector as they relate to Indigenous Australians.

AITAC is co-chaired by Dr Evelyn Scott and Bill Wilson. Each state and territory has a representative, as do the following agencies:

- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- Australian Council of Trade Unions;
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group;
- Department of Education, Science and Training;
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

In addition, there are positions for a representative from:

- Small Business;
- Training Providers;
- State/Territory Training Authority Chief Executive Officers; and
- ANTA Directors.

AITAC's Terms of Reference provide information on the work carried out.

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS TRAINING ADVISORY COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Monitor progress of implementation of the strategies and component actions of the Blueprint and provide regular reports to the ANTA Board on progress of, and issues arising from, implementation of the Blueprint;
2. Evaluate success of strategies and component actions of the Blueprint;
3. Undertake a mid term review of the Blueprint which includes qualitative and quantitative evidence of activity both from those implementing actions and Indigenous learners;
4. Undertake a final evaluation of Blueprint at the end of 2005 to assess the performance of the VET system and other stakeholders in achieving the objectives of *Partners in a Learning Culture* and make recommendations of future arrangements for improving opportunities for Indigenous people in VET;
5. Develop and provide advice to the ANTA Board on emerging issues which impact on the implementation of the Blueprint and Indigenous VET (eg training packages);
6. Identify and where appropriate commission or refer to relevant body research projects relating to above;
7. Liaise with ANTA staff re Indigenous advice on issues relating to the Blueprint;
8. Facilitate co-ordination of effort at the national level;
9. Assist State and Territory monitoring bodies with their Indigenous strategies and programs;
10. Facilitate national and regional forums/seminars/conferences on VET issues relating to Indigenous issues; and
11. Conduct major conference every two years.

AITAC outcomes

At this point in time, the following outcomes can be reported:

- AITAC has completed a mid-term review of the Blueprint, as outlined in the Terms of Reference. The Review has been submitted to ANTA, and priorities for the implementation of Review recommendations have been formulated.
- AITAC has established effective linkages with other agencies in government to ensure that the place of Indigenous Australians is recognised.
- AITAC has provided input into ANTA's '*Shaping Our Future: National Strategy for VET 2004-2010*', including the development of Action Plans.
- AITAC has engaged in significant partnership with National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) to further quality research into Indigenous participation in the VET sector across Australia.