

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. E507_04

Senator Marshall asked on 6 November 2003

Question:

Can the Department detail the arrangements put in place within DEST to support the former Enterprise and Career Education Foundation (ECEF) initiative since its abolition and any programs the Department will subsequently facilitate industry support for vocational education and training within schools?

Answer:

Enterprise and Career Education Foundation

The 2003-04 Budget measure to bring the functions of the Enterprise and Career Education Foundation (ECEF) closer to Government provided funding for the management of the associated programmes and initiatives. Administrative funding for initiatives to facilitate industry support for vocational education in schools was not reduced by the measure and will continue to be delivered by Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

The Australian Government has committed to fund Structure Workplace Learning (SWL) 2004. SWL is provided by approximately 220 Local Community Partnerships (LCPs) across Australia which focus on building links between local schools and industries to enhance SWL. A key element of this network of partnerships is to promote students' understandings of the workplace, including through workplace visits.

In addition to providing funding for SWL, DEST is facilitating industry support for vocational education and training within schools. Specifically, DEST is providing funding through the Industry Engagement Initiative to industry peak bodies (Australian Industry Group, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Group Training Australia, and the Rural Skill Australia/National Farmers Federation) to implement elements of the MCEETYA Framework for Vocational Education in Schools. A key focus of this Framework is on strengthening partnerships between industry and schools through raising awareness among students, parent and teachers, expanding VET in Schools and School-based New Apprenticeships pathways and increasing work placement opportunities.