

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for Vocational Education and Training

DEST Question No. E319_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) What consultation was held with stakeholders such as State and Territory Governments about the abolition of ANTA?
- (b) What role if any did DEST have in this decision? (Researching, advisory, recommending ?)
- (c) What changes have been made within DEST to accommodate this change, and ensure that VET gets adequate and dedicated focus within DEST in terms of staffing, expertise, divisions?
- (d) Under ANTA both industry and unions were involved – how will they be involved under the new arrangements?

Answer:

ANTA Transition

(a) The Prime Minister's announcement of 22 October 2004, that responsibilities and functions of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) would be transferred to DEST from 1 July 2005 is a Machinery of Government change. These decisions are matters for the Government, as is consultation with stakeholders on the matter.

(b) DEST did not have a role in this decision.

(c) ANTA will continue to fulfil its statutory responsibilities until 30 June 2005. DEST and ANTA are working together in preparation for the formal transfer of responsibilities from July 2005 and are committed to a smooth transition which is seamless to VET clients.

DEST is currently considering the best structures and staffing profiles to accommodate ANTA responsibilities and to assure continued focus on the national training system. DEST has established a Transitions Branch to manage the transfer process, and will build its capacity as functions transfer.

(d) The Prime Minister's statement of 22 October 2005 sends a positive signal that the intention is for a national vocational education and training system to continue with industry's central role to be maintained.

DEST will consult broadly during February and March 2005 about the new national training arrangements.