

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. - E321_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) What is the budgetary effect of this change? Will operational costs of TAFE/VET be less without ANTA? (that is what are the anticipated savings of abolishing ANTA?)
- (b) Will this affect the amount of funding for TAFE institutes and if so by what estimated amount?
- (c) If savings are made by abolishing ANTA will they go to TAFE or to the new technical colleges, or Institute for Trade Excellence?
- (d) How will funds be allocated to States and Territories with the abolition of ANTA – what changes will be made to processes?

Answer:

Budgetary Effects of ANTA Changes

(a) The government does not intend to withdraw funds currently available to the sector. The Government has announced that it expects some administrative savings from the transfer of ANTA functions to DEST. These are expected to be realised from efficiencies in corporate services and closure of the Brisbane and Melbourne ANTA offices in centralising functions to Canberra.

(b) No - the amount of funding for States and Territories will not be affected.

(c) Administrative savings realised from the closing of ANTA will be returned to the Budget. The level of funds available to other programmes and initiatives are not dependant on savings from ANTA. The Government has announced a package of measures totalling an additional \$1.06bn over four years aimed at addressing skill shortages and the provision of training.

(d) Funding to States and Territories previously facilitated through the ANTA Agreement will be offered through a new Commonwealth-State Funding Agreement. Details of the agreement will be negotiated with State and Territory Ministers in the first half of 2005 for effect from 1 July 2005. The current ANTA Agreement has been rolled-over for the six-months to 30 June 2005.