

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.3 – International Education Group

DEST Question No. E355_05

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question:

Is there a licensing regime for the establishment of offshore campuses by Australian educational institutions?

To what extent are these campuses subject to Australian regulation and standards in terms of accountability, teaching quality and output?

Answer:

Licensing of offshore campuses

The Australian Government does not have a licensing regime for the establishment of offshore campuses by Australian educational institutions.

All education and training providers that seek to establish offshore operations must comply with the regulatory mechanisms of the host country. Approval processes vary by country.

Regulation of offshore activities

Self-accrediting institutions

All self-accrediting higher education institutions are subject to institutional audits, which are conducted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), an independent, not-for-profit national agency. Each self-accrediting institution is audited by AUQA on a five yearly cycle.

Institutional audits cover all activities concerned with teaching, learning, research and administration conducted by the institution, including any offshore operations.

All other sectors

The States and Territories have primary quality assurance oversight of institutions in the schools, vocational education and training (VET), and non self-accrediting higher education sectors. This includes the accreditation and/or auditing of offshore operations.