

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. E381_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Explain how much Commonwealth funding is directed to TAFE and other public providers compared to private providers of VET? Provide a breakdown into these areas for the last 5 years?

Answer:

Commonwealth funding for vocational education and training, directed to public compared to private providers

Australian Government funding for vocational education and training is provided under the ANTA Agreement and certain programmes of the Department of Education, Science and Training.

Other Australian Government agencies, including Centrelink, the Department of Defence and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, also purchase vocational education and training from TAFEs and other providers, principally for staff development purposes. This funding is not included in the national vocational education and training data collection administered by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

Australian Government funds paid to the Australian National Training Authority for distribution to the States and Territories under the ANTA Agreement are allocated by the State and Territory governments to publicly-owned and other training providers in their jurisdictions. Neither the States and Territories or the National Centre for Vocational Education Research produces a breakdown showing the division of Commonwealth funding between TAFE and other public providers, compared to private providers of vocational education and training.

DEST programmes purchase vocational education and training under two broad models: brokered through intermediary organisations, and by direct contracting with training providers.

Programmes conducted under brokerage models include New Apprenticeships Access Programme, Basic Information Technology Enabling Skills (BITES) for Older Workers, and VET Priority Places Programme. The Department does not monitor expenditure by sector under these programmes.

Direct contracts with providers are maintained under the following programmes, enabling the Department to report expenditure on training paid to TAFE and other sector providers, as follows.

Annual funding in millions

		2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme (IESIP) * ¹	TAFE/ other public sector	36.2	33.7	32.5	30.0	26.1
	Other sector providers	11.5	10.7	11.0	9.8	9.4
	Total	47.7	44.4	43.5	39.8	35.5
Language, Literacy and Numeracy Programme	TAFE/ other public sector	23.9	26.6	17.0	16.8	Not avail * ²
	Other sector providers	15.7	15.4	8.9	8.0	Not avail * ²
	Total	39.6	42.0	25.9	24.8	
Workplace English Literacy and Language Programme	TAFE/ other public sector	4.1	3.3	3.6	Not avail * ²	Not avail * ²
	Other sector providers	3.0	2.4	4.0	Not avail * ²	Not avail * ²
	Total	7.1	5.7	7.6		

*¹ IESIP funding is reported on a calendar year basis.

*² funding information for earlier years is held on paper files. A significant diversion of resources would be required to search the information in these years.