

## 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. E398\_05**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Is the Department aware of waiting lists in TAFE? Please provide details of waiting list in TAFE including:

- (i) name of TAFE
- (ii) the courses
- (iii) the numbers of students on waiting list

If not, can the Department contact TAFE to investigate the extent and details of waiting lists in courses across each state?

Can the department provide the findings from this investigation?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Waiting lists in TAFE*

The Department does not have information regarding TAFE course waiting lists.

It would not be appropriate for the Department to collect this information regarding TAFE waiting lists from TAFE institutions. Under the Constitution States and Territories are responsible for all aspects of training in their jurisdiction, including policies and administrative matters relating to the administration of their TAFE courses.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes data on unmet demand in VET. In 1995, an estimated 89,300 individuals applied for but were unable to gain a place to study in a VET course – 69,400 of these were seeking access to a TAFE place. In 1999 the level was 71,100 for all VET, and 53,900 for TAFE. In 2003, the level fell to 55,400, of which 45,900 were seeking a TAFE place. In 2004, the level fell further to 45,500, with 34,100 seeking to study at TAFE.