

## 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. E400\_05**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

How many pre-apprenticeship courses in the traditional trades were offered in 1996 in TAFE?

How many pre-apprenticeships course in the traditional trades are currently offered in TAFE?

Please provide the number of pre-apprenticeship courses in the traditional trades that have closed down since 1996 in TAFE including:

(vii) name of TAFE

(viii) the name of the course

(ix) the date of closure

If this information cannot be provided can the Department investigate the number of pre-vocational course which have closed since 1996 in TAFE across each state?

Can the department provide the findings from this investigation?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Apprenticeship Courses*

The Department does not have, for any time period, information regarding the number of pre-apprenticeship courses in the traditional trades at either a national or jurisdictional level. NCVER conducted a study of pre-apprenticeship courses enrolments between 1994 to 1999. The study found that there was no way to identify these courses with certainty and that there were complications in tracking courses due to changes in the names of courses over time. The study does not consider courses that were offered during 1994 and 1999, only enrolments in pre-apprenticeship courses. The report, published in 2003, is titled *Pathways to apprenticeships* and can be found at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/research/proj/nr1015.pdf>

It is not appropriate for the Department to request pre-apprenticeship information at a jurisdictional level. Under the Constitution, States and Territories are responsible for all aspects of training in their jurisdiction, including the types of courses they offer within their jurisdiction. While individual States and Territories are provided with their statistical information from NCVER, the Australian Government only receives data collated at a national level. This arrangement has been established under national agreements.