

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for Vocational Education and Training

DEST Question No. E458_06 – Final

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

Question:

For each of the years 1996 to 2004, how much public money was granted to private providers of vocational education and training either from the Commonwealth or indirectly as a result of the Commonwealth's policies and funding arrangements with states and territories?

Answer:

Australian Government Funding to Private VTE Providers

Australian Government payments to private providers of vocational education and training is not managed centrally by the Department of Education, Science and Training. Individual programme managers across all Australian Government Agencies are able, within approved guidelines, to purchase services from private VET providers.

Payments made by the Australian Government under *Skilling Australia's Workforce Act* are provided to the State Training Authority in each State and Territory. These payments may be used by the State Training Authority to purchase services from either public or private providers. While State Training Authorities do not report to DEST on their purchase arrangements, the National Centre for Vocational Educational Research (NCVER) does collect this data. However, NCVER does not collect data on any direct Commonwealth payments to the private provider VET sector.

The National Centre for Vocational Educational Research (NCVER) has provided the following information in the table below on, *Payments by States/Territories Training Authorities to Non- TAFE Providers for VET Delivery*. The table excludes payments to secondary schools and agricultural colleges to leave only payments to private, enterprise, community, industry and local government providers:

Year	Payments by States'/Territories' Training Authorities to NON-TAFE Providers for VET Delivery *
	\$'000
1996**	97,983
1997	147,053
1998	188,167
1999	235,899
2000	242,640
2001	298,777
2002	295,698
2003	294,451
2004	312,844
Total	2,113,512

*Source: NCVET annual "Australian vocational education and training statistics-Financial information" publication.

Payments are determined by State/Territory Training Authorities(STA's) and are to private, enterprise, community, industry and local government providers.

** The 1996 figures are cash based. Subsequent years are accrual based.