

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: E800_06 - Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

(i) What is the nature of the data transfers being conducted on the National Training Information System, and (ii) how significant are the data errors reported on the NTIS website?

(iii) When does DEST expect these errors to be rectified?

(iv) Has DEST engaged any outside consultants to assist on this project? (v) If, so, who?

(vi) What is the value of the contract?

(vii) When is the work expected to be completed?

Answer:

National Training Information System

(i) The National Information Data Service data transfer relates to the entry of Registered Training Organisation (RTO) information by State Training Authorities (STAs), covering the organisations' scope of delivery and their contact and course details. In July 2005 the way this information is captured changed and some data errors were caused before bugs in the system were identified and rectified. Measures were implemented as quickly as possible to ensure that course scope information was correct.

(ii) Initially a number of technical errors arose due to differences between the way information is stored on the former system and the current system, however, there are still a few minor errors in address fields being reported and these are corrected manually within twenty-four hours.

(iii) These errors have been largely rectified and any new errors reported are generally rectified within twenty-four hours.

(iv) DEST has engaged two outside consultants. (v) They are:

- Volante Solutions Pty Ltd; and
- Curriculum Corporation

(vi) DEST's contract with Volante covers a range of services including the development and maintenance of the new National Training Information Service. Approximately \$1.07 million has been provided to Volante since April 2004 under this contract for the development of the data entry website responsible for capturing the RTO data. Under this contract Volante is also responsible for correcting the data transfer issues related to NTIS.

DEST's contract with Curriculum Corporation covers a range of services including monitoring, correcting and reporting of data transfers on the National Training Information Service. \$13,252.50 has been provided to date to Curriculum Corporation under this contract for these services.

(vii) The development work on the data entry website has been completed and is in a testing phase. The date for release will be determined by the outcomes of the testing, but it is anticipated this will be in the first quarter of 2006.