

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. E801_06 - Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Is DEST undertaking any research, programs or initiatives examining the issue of the aging profile of the TAFE workforce and the potential for severe staff shortages in the TAFE workforce? Please provide details of work being undertaken.

Answer:

TAFE Workforce

DEST is not undertaking any research, programmes or initiatives regarding the TAFE workforce.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has published research about the TAFE workforce in the report 'Sustaining the skill base of technical and further education institutes: TAFE managers' perspectives' by Berwyn Clayton, Thea Fisher, Elvie Hughes.

This report examines the approaches managers and leaders in 16 TAFE institutes have undertaken to sustain, develop and renew their workforce and build their organisation's knowledge. It finds that TAFE managers now recognise that maintaining and developing their organisation's skill base is imperative, but that finding approaches to sustain TAFE in the longer term requires more attention.

This report and supporting documentation may be found on the NCVER web site at:
<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1591.html>