

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training

DEST Question No. E597_07

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

Question:

NCVER (2006) 'Training and Skills in the Electrical and Communications Industry' Report

- a) Was this a DEST funded report?
- b) If not, why does the DEST logo appear on the report?
- c) Why was this report commissioned?
- d) What was the purpose of the research underlying this report?
- e) How much did this research cost and who undertook it?
- f) What process was used to determine who would undertake this research?
- g) Did DEST or NCVER require that this research report establish a steering group to officially endorse the report?
- h) If so, how did it ensure the process of validation was confirmed?
- i) If not, how did DEST or NCVER ensure the reports validity with the community of industry stakeholders it purported to report on?
- j) Why didn't this report review literature or statistics from State Training Authorities or DEST?
- k) Why has the report relied on a limited number of industry elites all centred in major metropolitan centres?
- l) Have the findings of the report been established and documented in other reports or Government publications?
- m) If so, why is there duplication?
- n) Does DEST and NCVER support the findings/assertions of the report?
- o) What action has been taken in light of this report's findings?
- p) Is the publication promoted and distributed by NCVER and DEST?
- q) If so, on what basis is it reported and distributed (eg as a National Industry Report etc)?

Answer:

NCVER (2006) 'Training and Skills in the Electrical and Communications Industry' Report

- a) Yes.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) This report was commissioned by the National Electrical and Communications Association as part of a contract between the Department of Education, Science and Training and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This contract was for the conduct of a project funded under the National Skills Shortage Strategy titled 'Electrotechnology and Data Communications – Licensing, the Ageing Workforce and Industry Information Dissemination: Analysis of issues and development of solutions'.

- d) The purpose of the report was to identify issues regarding the ageing workforce in the electrical and communications sector and to develop strategies to address issues of concern and present recommendations for future projects.
- e) The National Centre for Vocational Education Research undertook the research. The cost of this research was \$44,057 (GST inclusive).
- f) The National Electrical and Communications Association contracted the National Centre for Vocational Education Research to undertake the research.
- g) The Department of Education, Science and Training required as part of its contract with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry that a Steering Committee be established for the 'Electrotechnology and Data Communications – Licensing, the Ageing Workforce and Industry Information Dissemination: Analysis of issues and development of solutions' project (refer to Question Number E596_07).
- h) The National Centre for Vocational Education Research ensured the validation and quality assurance of this work in line with its research data quality policy.
- i) The previous question refers.
- j) The decision to use research from State-based sources or not is at the discretion of the research organisation and dependent on the scope of the research project.
- k) The National Centre for Vocational Education Research determined the extent of consultation undertaken as part of this project.
- l) The report is publicly available on the National Centre for Vocational Education Research website.
- m) The previous question refers.
- n) The Department of Education, Science and Training approved the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research report as one part of the 'Electrotechnology and Data Communications' project findings.
- o) The report provides a range of information on issues impacting on the electrotechnology industry, relating to new and emerging technologies and on the profile of workers within the electrotechnology industry. The Department of Education, Science and Training has not funded any further research at this stage into the electrotechnology industry.
- p) The report is publicly available on the National Centre for Vocational Education Research website at <http://www.ncver.edu.au/>.
- q) The publication can be downloaded from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research website free of charge. The report has not been distributed more broadly by the Department of Education, Science and Training.