

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.2 – Australian Apprenticeships

DEST Question No. E609_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

a) Skills for the Future 'Work Skills Voucher'

How will the Department determine approved providers for the Work Skills Voucher? Will all current TAFE and/or other registered training organisations be automatically approved or will they be required to undertake a separate approval process?

Will schools be eligible to be approved?

Will organizations not registered as training organisations with their relevant VET accreditation authority be approved by DEST to offer these vouchers?

b) Skills for the Future 'Business Skills Voucher for Apprentices'

How will the Department determine approved providers for the Business Skills Voucher? Will all current TAFE and/or other registered training organisations be automatically approved or will they be required to undertake a separate approval process?

Will schools be eligible to be approved?

Will organisations not registered as training organisations with their relevant VET accreditation authority be approved by DEST to offer these vouchers?

Answer:

Approval Process for Providers

(a) Organisations eligible to apply for the Work Skills Voucher include any registered training organisation which is accredited to provide eligible courses/qualifications within its current scope of registration. Other organisations which might also wish to apply include:

- schools or other State/Territory registered organisations wishing to offer Year 12 studies to Australians aged 25 and over; and
- community organisations that are not registered training organisations but which have been approved in a State or Territory to deliver accredited literacy and numeracy courses.

DEST will not undertake a separate approval process regarding a provider's eligibility, but will determine whether the courses they are seeking to offer are eligible within their scope of registration or accreditation and whether they meet the programme objectives.

(b) The only organisations eligible to offer Business Skills Vouchers are registered training organisations. DEST will not undertake a separate approval process regarding a provider's eligibility, but will determine whether the business training units they are seeking to offer are eligible, within their scope of registration and whether they meet the programme objectives.