

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.2 – Australian Apprenticeships

DEST Question No. E610_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

a) *Skills for the Future* 'Work Skills Voucher'

The voucher will be available to those who have 'no formal qualifications'. What formal qualifications preclude access to this voucher?

b) *Skills for the Future*

What protections will be put in place to prevent approved providers increasing their course fees to take into account the full value of the vouchers?

Answer:

Eligibility and Protection

a) Individuals will be ineligible for a Work Skills Voucher if they have completed:

- a relevant State or Territory certificate of senior secondary education;
- an adult general education qualification; or
- any Certificate II or higher qualification.

b) The Department of Education, Science and Training will consider the competitiveness of all courses, qualifications and business training units as part of the approval process. Once a course, qualification or business training unit has been approved by the Department for the Australian Skills Vouchers Programme, an organisation will not be able to increase the cost for a period of twelve months.

Each November, organisations will have an opportunity to advise DEST of any changes to the cost of approved courses/qualifications or business training units. DEST reserves the right to determine whether to accept the changed costs and continue to approve them for the programme.