

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.2 Australian Apprenticeships

#### **DEST Question No. E757\_07**

Senator Wong asked on 1 November 2006, EWRE Hansard page 139:

#### **Question:**

In relation to the following extract from page 167 of the Department's 2005-06 Annual Report:

*"In April 2006, the department commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of South Australia, seeking to recover incentive payments of \$481 050 paid to a company under the New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme. This proceeding was still before the court as at 30 June 2006."*

- (a) Can the Department provide a timeline of its involvement in this matter?
- (b) When did Departmental officers first become aware that there was an issue? and
- (c) When did an investigation or audit, if any, commence?

#### **Answer:**

*New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme*

- (a) , (b) and (c)

The Department provides the following response in the context of the sub judice convention whereby public comment on a matter still before a Court may constitute interference with due process.

An investigation by the Department's National Investigations Unit into AFL Sportsready Limited's incentive payments under the New Apprenticeship Incentives Programme began on 29 June 2004.

The Commonwealth filed a Statement of Claim on 26 April 2006 in the Supreme Court of South Australia.

No defence has been filed in this matter by the Defendant and there has been no adjudication by the Court on the issues raised by the Statement of Claim. Criminal prosecution of one of the Defendant's employees is still underway in the District Court of South Australia.