

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.3 – AEI Group

#### **DEST Question No. E755\_04 - Final**

Senator Carr asked on 20 February 2004 (EWRE Hansard page 38)

#### **Question:**

Did you (DEST) provide advice to DFAT on these matters ie relating to education services and the Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA)? Can we have copies of those letters?

#### **Answer:**

*Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AEI)*

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) provided advice, both orally and in writing, to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on matters relating to education services and the Australian United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA).

It is not appropriate to provide copies of correspondence, as it is in the nature of policy advice provided in the course of policy development and does not in itself provide a complete picture of the AUSFTA negotiation process, or the outcomes of the FTA. The correspondence was part of the negotiating history of the AUSFTA which included the Government developing its mandate and scope for the agreement.

The final text of the AUSFTA is available on the DFAT website at [http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/us\\_fta/final-text/index.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/us_fta/final-text/index.html)