

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education

DEST Question No. E913_04

Refers E428_04, and E433_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

Private HE providers in teaching and nursing

- a) Can you please provide a list of the private higher education providers in each state and territory that, as at 1 February 2004, offer accredited bachelor-level courses in:
 - Teacher education; and
 - Nurse education.
- b) Can you please indicate the year in which each provider gained initial accreditation for its various teacher education and nurse education courses?
- c) Is it the case that the Wesley Institute, in Sydney, now offers Teacher Education at bachelor's level?
- d) Was it accredited to offer this course in 2003?
- e) Is this provider the same one that, in 1999, franchised out its RTO operations to a provider in the international education market, Vision College? This provider, Vision, was involved in the year 2000 in financial difficulties and a scandal involving student visa scams – is that correct?
- f) Who is running this college now? Is it back with the Wesley Mission, or is it still operated by Vision College?
- g) Supposing this provider approached the Commonwealth for recognition as a higher education provider – what kind of checks of probity, fit and proper person checks and so on would you perform?

Answer:

Private HE providers in teaching and nursing

- a) A list of private higher education providers on the AQF Register of Recognised Education Institutions & Authorised Accreditation Authorities in Australia (AQF Register) which offer accredited bachelor-level courses in teacher education and nurse education is at Attachment A.
- b) DEST does not hold this information, which is a matter by State and Territory accreditation authorities, but has been advised by them as indicated at Attachment A.
- c) Wesley Institute is not listed on the AQF Register to deliver teacher education at the bachelor degree level.

- d) The NSW Department of Education and Training has advised that the Wesley Institute was not accredited to offer teacher education at bachelor level in 2003.
- e) The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) for Wesley Mission, trading as Wesley Institute for Ministry and the Arts (WIMA), made an agreement with Vision College Pty Ltd in July 1999 to establish jointly the Wesley Institute for Language and Commerce (WILC). In August 2000, WIMA terminated its agreement with Vision College Pty Ltd to operate WILC and closed WILC. Alternative arrangements for WILC students were made as required under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*. A number of WILC students were involved in visa difficulties in the year of WILC's closure.
- f) On the AQF Register, the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) for Wesley Mission is listed as the provider trading as the Wesley Institute. The Wesley Institute website states that 'Wesley Mission is the governing and primary funding body of Wesley Institute for Ministry and the Arts'.
- g) The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) specifies the requirements to be approved a higher education provider for the purpose of receiving Commonwealth support. Section 19-20 of HESA requires that a higher education provider (other than a Table A provider) must comply with National Protocols. The National Protocols require the assessment of non self-accrediting providers as a fit and proper person to accept responsibility for the course. This assessment is carried out by an authorised accreditation authority listed in the AQF Register. DEST will confirm probity through the accreditation process. In addition, HESA requires providers to meet a range of quality and accountability requirements including the maintenance of a tuition assurance scheme by private providers seeking recognition as higher education providers for the purposes of the Act.

ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS WHO PROVIDE BACHELOR DEGREE COURSES IN NURSING AND TEACHER EDUCATION

The following list was obtained from the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Register on 9 March 2004.

STATE/ TERRITORY	NAME OF PROVIDER	YEAR OF INITIAL COURSE ACCREDITATION
NSW	ACPE Redlands Ltd (Australian College of Physical Education)	1989* (teacher education) No nursing courses
	Australasian Conference Association Limited (Avondale College)	1998* (teacher education) 1997* (nursing)
	College of Christian Higher Education Incorporated (Institute of Christian Tertiary Education, National Institute for Christian Education)	2001* (teacher education) No nursing courses
QLD	Christian Heritage College	1989 (teacher education) No nursing courses
SA	Tabor College Australia	1997 (teacher education) No nursing courses

*The NSW Department of Education and Training has advised that these dates represent decisions made under the *NSW Higher Education Act 1988*.