

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. E916_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

Your Newsletter no.6 contains some advice to universities about their need to comply with provisions of the Trade Practices Act. This has become an urgent issue because of what the Department terms “the new competitive environment”.

You then go on to note that only six universities out of the 38 have extensive information on TPA compliance on their websites.

You advise universities that they will have to obtain independent legal advice about their responsibilities in this regard.

- a) What would such advice cost them?
- b) What will it cost them to ensure TPA compliance?
- c) What assistance does DEST plan to provide to them?

Answer:

Universities and the Trade Practices Act

- a) It is not possible for DEST to estimate the cost of legal advice obtained by third parties.
 - b) It is not possible for DEST to estimate the cost that Higher Education Providers bear in complying with the Trade Practices legislation. As some providers have already put comprehensive TPA compliance programmes in place it would appear they consider the process to be cost effective.
 - c) In the BAF Newsletter No.6 DEST provided information regarding resources available to Higher Education Providers from the ACCC. Since the publication of the Newsletter the web-address mentioned in the article has been changed and the relevant information can now be found at: <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/54418> >. <
- The ACCC is the appropriate body to provide assistance to Higher Education Providers in Trade Practices compliance.