

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E822_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Restrictions on size of ATCs

1. Can you confirm that ATCs are normally restricted in maximum enrolment levels? What is the upper limit? But the colleges can be bigger in certain circumstances? What circumstances?
2. What are the reasons for these restrictions? Aren't you seeking economies of scale? Why not? Isn't this a wasteful approach – campuses of less than 100 students (eg Ferntree Gully)?
3. Will ATCs be required to provide the usual facilities available at other schools – such as a canteen, sports facilities, library? Isn't this wasteful duplication, when there are other schools nearby that already have these facilities, and where the Commonwealth could have decided simply to fund some VET programs directly?

Answer:

Restrictions on size of ATCs

- 1-2 There are no restrictions or upper limit on the number of enrolments in colleges. When the Australian Technical Colleges initiative was announced by the Australian Government in 2004 it was envisaged that each College could cater for approximately 300 students. Actual enrolments vary according to local circumstances.
3. Australian Technical Colleges do not duplicate existing educational services in an area. The Colleges provide a new pathway for students, involving a mix of academic studies and vocational training and schools based apprenticeships.