

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.4 – Assistance for transition through and from school

#### **DEST Question No. E040\_04**

Senator Crossin tabled on 4 June 2003

#### **Question:**

The budget papers show that the Enterprise and Career Education Foundation (ECEF) is terminated, thus saving \$4.1m over 4 years. Its function will be incorporated into and undertaken by DEST. How will this be done while maintaining an ongoing program offered to the schools, and students involved, which include several in the NT and a recorded figure of 329 students? Will those schools, which have been accessing ECEF, be able to continue without break under the new funding arrangements?

#### **Answer:**

##### *New funding arrangements for ECEF*

As part of the 2003-04 Budget, the Commonwealth Government decided to bring the operations of ECEF closer to government. The result of this decision is that the functions performed by ECEF, including policy advice and programme management will be progressively transferred to DEST, with the aim that the transition will be completed by 30 September 2003.

DEST and ECEF are working cooperatively to implement the Government's decision and ensure an orderly, smooth and cost effective transition of ECEF's functions to DEST. Both parties are committed to achieving this aim and ensuring that a business as usual approach is adopted. Consistent with this approach, schools that have been accessing ECEF Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) opportunities will continue to do so.