

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.1 – Funding for Vocational Education and Training

#### **DEST Question No. E074\_05**

Senator Allison provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

How much have TAFE fees risen in each State over the last four years?

#### **Answer:**

##### *TAFE Fees*

The setting of TAFE fees within each jurisdiction is a State and Territory matter. The Australian Government plays no role in setting State and Territory course fees for TAFE.

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) does not have access to information on TAFE fee increases for either publicly funded or 'fee for service' courses over the last 4 years.

In 2003 the National Centre for Vocational Education Research undertook a review of charging policies in Australian vocational education and training, entitled *What do TAFE students pay?* This study noted the lack of consistency in TAFE fee regimes across Australia and a general lack of information on TAFE fees and charges.

DEST has undertaken some analysis of TAFE fee increases in each State and Territory for publicly funded courses between 2003 and 2004. All States and Territories have policy frameworks that apply to publicly funded TAFE courses. However, 'fee for service' courses fall outside these policy frameworks and information on fees and charges for these courses is not available in a consolidated form. Examples of fee for service courses in 2004 are the Certificate III in Hairdressing offered by WideBay TAFE for \$3,994 a year, and a Plumbing, Construction & Transport course in Basic Rigging offered by the Western Sydney Institute costing \$1,171.