

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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DEST Question No. E147_05

Senator Carr asked on 3 June 2004, EWRE Hansard page 72.

Question:

Senator Carr asked about the recent New Zealand government policy announcement on international education, including scholarship funding to attract students to New Zealand.

Answer:

Policy announcement on international education

The Department is aware of the recent policy announcement on international cooperation by the New Zealand government. Attached is a copy of the announcement by the New Zealand Minister of Education.

The New Zealand Ministry of Education is yet to finalise details of the individual components of the international education package. When it is released a copy will be provided.



Moving Forward in International Education

Summary: The government, as part of Budget 2004, will deliver a \$40 million package of new initiatives over the next four years, to support a more strategic approach to international education.

Last update: 12-May-2004

Our aim is to strengthen quality in international education provision, boost education linkages with key countries, and promote research, innovation and diversification within the education sector.

This new investment represents a five-fold increase in government spending on international education and recognises the importance of international education to New Zealand - both socially and economically.

It is critically important to have a strong international dimension to our education system. The exposure we get to overseas thinking raises education standards here, and the people-to-people connections are important for our young people as they learn to operate in a global marketplace.

In order to ensure sustainable, balanced growth and continue to benefit long-term from international education, the government, Education New Zealand, and education providers need to continue working together to build our reputation as a quality education provider.

Today's investment ensures we can develop new ways to deliver education services and expand the international focus of our thriving education system.

Trevor Mallard
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

International Education in New Zealand

Education is a vital part of the ties that link New Zealand to other nations. By welcoming students from other countries New Zealand gains socially and culturally by learning about other cultures and ideas.

Greater government commitment to international education will connect a new generation of New Zealanders to their peers overseas. The development of deeper relationships with the peoples and future leaders of other countries is an important benefit of international education.

The New Zealand education system provides students with the knowledge and skills to achieve results equal to the world's best. International education is about sharing this excellence with the rest of the world, and bringing the best from elsewhere to further improve achievement for all students by:

- providing quality international education;
- developing offshore programmes in other countries;
- developing linkages between education providers;
- assisting the very best international students to study in New Zealand;
- improving the skills of our own students, teachers and researchers; and
- developing government to government education relationships.

Assisting the development of education as an export industry also makes sense for the revenue it generates for New Zealand's education institutions and New Zealand businesses and communities. The international education sector contributes more than \$2 billion annually to the New Zealand economy, making it one of our most successful industries.

Strategic Direction

This Budget package supports the implementation of a more strategic approach to international education that will:

- strengthen New Zealand education;
- produce sustainable and increasing economic benefits to New Zealand from international education; and
- maximise the contribution of international education to broader social and economic goals.

The government's strategic approach will focus on:

- enhancing quality to strengthen New Zealand's reputation as a high quality provider of education services
- increasing diversity of international education activities, and the range of countries of origin for onshore and offshore students
- increasing the skill component of international education to increase the contribution to overall education, social and economic development
- developing international education partnerships to sustain long-term relationships with key countries, regions and international organisations, and
- strengthening public support in New Zealand to ensure the social, cultural and economic benefits of international education are fully realised.

Detail of the International Education Package

This Budget international education package comprises five components:

Education diplomacy (\$7.5m over four years)

- establish up to four education counsellor positions to strengthen long-term education partnerships with key countries and regions. The first will be in Beijing, China from 1 August 2004. Details on the location of other positions or other appropriate arrangements will be announced later this year;
- more resource into education missions from New Zealand and the hosting of visiting foreign education delegations here, increasing education liaison with other countries;
- support closer education relationships with multilateral agencies and international bodies such as Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), the European Union (EU), and with relevant United Nations and Commonwealth organisations.

Building quality (\$14.8 million over four years)

- strengthen New Zealand's international education quality through identifying and sharing of best practice;
- provide scholarships for top international postgraduate and undergraduate students to study and carry out research in New Zealand. Introduced progressively to 2007, up to 100 scholarships at postgraduate and 100 at undergraduate level will be offered annually when this programme is fully implemented.

Developing and maintaining worldwide study links (\$10.7 million over four years)

- increase opportunities for talented New Zealand students, teachers and researchers to undertake "study abroad" placements. Phased in from 2005 to 2007 and targeting priority areas - information and communications technology (ICT), biotechnology, sciences, creative industries, and languages.

Research and innovation (\$3.5 million over four years)

- to encourage other options for international education, including satellite campuses, e-learning, off shore courses, and partnerships with local providers in other countries;
- funding to help New Zealand providers research risk factors; build capability; establish new methods and partnerships; undertake feasibility studies; and share good practice examples.

Strategic promotion and marketing (\$3.1 million over four years)

- investigate, develop and diversify the range of markets for New Zealand's educational exports;
- strengthen the national brand for New Zealand's international education services.

Growth of International Education

Around the world, countries are competing to attract students and researchers. New Zealand is a top quality education provider. By 2025 there will be seven million students in higher education studying outside their own countries. We want to attract high quality students, particularly in areas where we have shortage of skills, and recruit high quality students across the board to boost teaching and learning and contribute to research and knowledge creation.

More than 100,000 international students studied in New Zealand in the year to 30 June 2003. Growth to this level has been rapid, driven by large increases in numbers from China in particular. But competition for students is intensifying and New Zealand's performance has been under scrutiny. We need to invest more to remain competitive with other countries, to maintain the quality of our study programmes, and to back up our commitment to provide a safe and welcoming study environment for international students. And we need to broaden the focus of our international education effort to areas other than the recruitment of students into New Zealand.

Joint approach with the education sector

The government is joining with the education sector to set out a preferred future direction for international education. This more strategic approach is in line with the work currently being undertaken by the education sector and co-ordinated by Education New Zealand.

Government and industry will work closely over the next few months to develop this shared approach with an announcement to be made later this year.

Contacts

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This document can also be obtained from New Zealand High Commissions and Embassies.