

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.4 – Funding for Higher Education

#### DEST Question No. E424\_06

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

#### Question:

*Carnegie Mellon University*

Considering the current public debate about the future diversity of Australian universities and higher education and the best regulatory framework for them, will the Government ensure that this debate is finalised and if changes are to be made, that those have been agreed to by the States before Carnegie Mellon is approved as a higher education provider?

- a) Shouldn't the diversity and nature of the sector be approved before new providers are approved that significantly change the diversity of the sector?
- b) Will the Government's new HEWRRs apply to the Adelaide branch of Carnegie Mellon? Would they apply if there are staff working part-time at another SA university and part-time at Carnegie Mellon? How will the policy be enforced without the threat of cutting funding?
- c) If the Government passes VSU legislation, would that VSU policy apply to Carnegie Mellon? How will the policy be enforced without the threat of cutting funding?

#### Answer:

*Carnegie Mellon*

The debate on the future diversity of Australian universities does not put a hold on State and Territory legislation for higher education accreditation and approval processes. Responsibility for approval for Carnegie Mellon University to operate in Adelaide rests with the South Australian government.

- a) Carnegie Mellon is currently being considered for approval as a university by the South Australian Government under National Protocol 2 (Operation of overseas higher education institutions in Australia) of the *National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes*.
- b) No. The Adelaide branch of Carnegie Mellon University will not receive any Australian Government funding under the Commonwealth Grants Scheme or for National Priority Places and as such the new Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements will not be compulsory.

If a staff member worked part-time at Carnegie Mellon and part-time at another South Australian university, the latter institution would be required to comply with the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements. The increase in assistance funding under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme to the other SA university would be conditional on that university meeting the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements as well as the National Governance Protocols.

- c) Yes. Carnegie Mellon University would be expected to comply with voluntary student unionism policy in the same manner as any other higher education provider. This would be enforceable under the quality and accountability requirements of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.