

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** All

**Output Group:** 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning  
2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training  
2.2 – New Apprenticeships  
2.3 – Assistance for skills and career development  
2.4 – Funding for higher education  
3.3 – Support for the Australian education and training export industry and international relationships  
3.4 – National leadership in engaging people in science and technology

#### **DEST Question No. E426\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing

#### **Question:**

On the weekend of 21 May, the Department of Immigration placed newspaper advertisements entitled “Looking for skilled labour overseas? Give your industry the edge” programme “, seeking peak industry organisations to host up to 10 senior Immigration Department staff to provide support in attracting skilled overseas workers.

Was DEST consulted in the development of this program?

Does DEST have any similar programs to outpost DEST staff to help businesses attract Australian apprentices? Why not?

#### **Answer:**

*Skilled labour overseas*

DEST has been consulted by DIMIA in relation to the “Looking for skilled labour overseas? Give your industry the edge”.

DEST does not outpost staff to help businesses attract Australian apprentices. The Department contracts with a network of providers across Australia known as New Apprenticeships Centres to provide comprehensive information and services to employers and potential New Apprentices.

DEST also funds Education and Training Advisers in each State and Territory, co-ordinated by the Australian Industry Group, the National Farmers’ Federation, and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The key function of Education and Training Advisers is to work through the Peak Industry Associations to increase their members’ understanding of vocational education and training issues, particularly the National Training Framework, New Apprenticeships and Training Packages, with the ultimate goal of improving employer take-up of New Apprenticeships.