



2006 TAFE FACT SHEET, No. 5

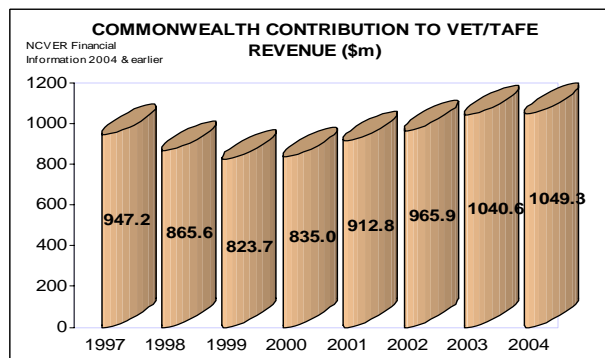
Where does the AEU get its VET funding figures?

The Federal Minister for Vocational and Technical Education has accused the AEU of “deliberate lies” in relation to VET funding by the Commonwealth Government.

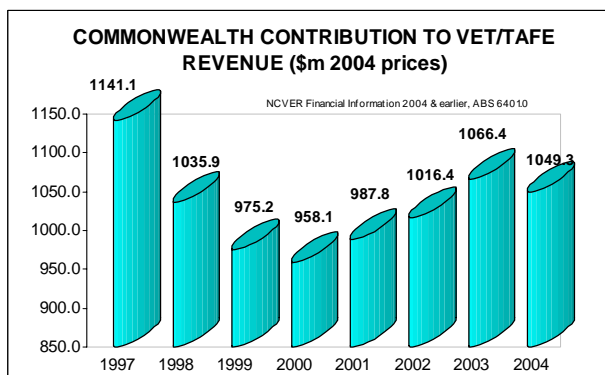
The AEU funding figures are based on the NCVER (National Centre for Vocational Education Research) yearly report on the VET funding. This report, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics, Financial Information*, is published by the Australian Government. The most recent edition covers funding to 2004 (financial data for 2005 should be available in November 2006).

Table 1 provides a breakdown of recurrent revenues provided by State and Commonwealth governments. The current data series commenced in 1997, so that is used as the base year.

Examining the relevant table for the period 1997 – 2004 shows the following:

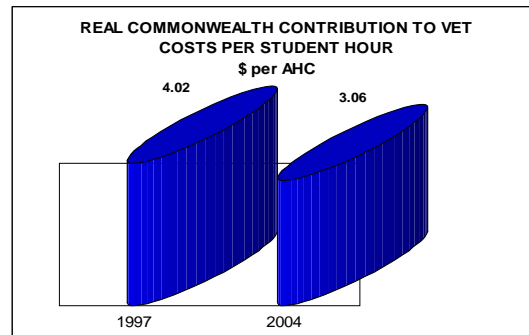


When these figures are adjusted for CPI (using 2004 prices), the figures look like this:



There has been an increase in aggregate Commonwealth recurrent VET funding since 2000 but it has still not returned to the 1997 level. If the Commonwealth had maintained recurrent VET funding at the 1997 level each year for the period 1997-2004, there would have been an additional \$898.6m invested in VET.

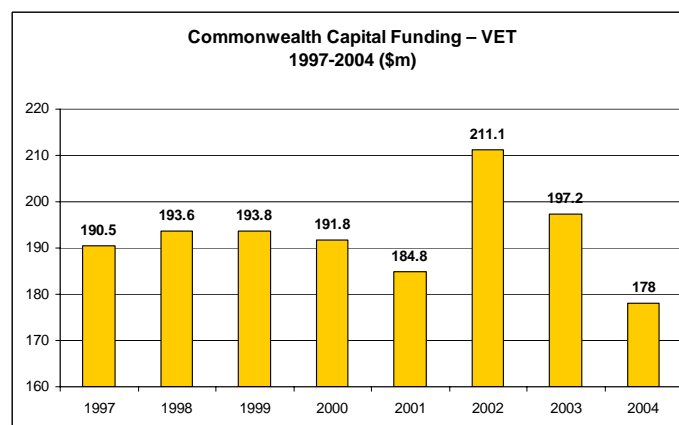
However, these figures do not take into account hours of student VET delivery, which have increased significantly over the period. Another NCVER publication, *Australian Vocational and Training Statistics: Students and Courses*, provides data on the annual student hours delivered. Dividing Commonwealth recurrent funding by the number of annual student hours of VET delivery yields the following:



This is a reduction in funding of 24 per cent. Had the Commonwealth funded VET delivery at the same per student hour rate in 2004 as in 1997, there would have been an additional \$329m available for VET delivery in 2004.

Capital Funding

The above figures do not include Commonwealth capital funding. Tables 6-7 (Note 9) of the NCVER report, *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics, Financial Information*, provide information on this.



Adjusting these figures for inflation (using CPI) yields the following figures:

