



Speech by

Hon. P. BRADDY

MEMBER FOR KEDRON

Hansard 22 October 1998

MIGATE Skills Centre

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Kedron—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (7.15 p.m.): I rise to clarify my answers given in Parliament today concerning the funding of the MIGATE Skills Centre in Mount Isa. My department has reviewed the file and has advised me that the processes involved were as follows. In July 1997, the department received from MIGATE a proposal for approximately \$600,000 in funding for a skills centre in Mount Isa. Over the next 12 months the department and MIGATE, in consultation with ANTA, reviewed and refined the development of a detailed proposal. On 1 June 1998, the department referred a proposal to establish a skills centre in Mount Isa involving \$367,000 of ANTA funds to ANTA for its reaction. That referral advised that most of the ANTA criteria had been met and that, prior to making a formal recommendation to ANTA, the department was awaiting the outcome of a whole-of-mining industry study to see whether there were any implications for the proposal.

The study by the mining industry was delayed and the training division of the department decided to formalise the recommendation to ANTA without waiting for the outcome of the study. That recommendation by the training division was made on 8 July 1998. At the time, this was not brought to the attention of either the director-general or me. On 22 July 1998, ANTA endorsed funding to the department.

However, this does not complete the process. Under existing arrangements, the training division would forward the proposal for approval of the project and expenditure to the director-general and/or the Minister, depending on the level of funds involved. Before any such funding approvals were sought either from the director-general or me, a number of relevant issues came to light.

Contrary to suggestions in Opposition questions today, no funding approvals for the MIGATE proposal have ever been given by the director-general or me. The training division has requested ANTA to suspend action on the funding to the department pending further advice. The training division has commissioned a study of the training needs in the Mount Isa region and the viability of the MIGATE Skills Centre proposal. Both TAFE and MIGATE have agreed to this study.

I inadvertently advised the Parliament, based on advice from the department this morning, that all of the processes for the funding of the skills centre occurred under the previous Government. I now make it clear that, after a review of the file, there has never been any approval to fund the MIGATE proposal from me or the previous Minister or the department under either Government. I apologise to the Parliament for incorrect information I inadvertently provided in my answers to questions this morning.
