

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance to individuals including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E525_05

Senator Harradine asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 74.

Question:

That is the point that I am going to. Wouldn't it be very important also to have that information: the number of teenage girls who drop out of school because they have a child or are pregnant? Isn't that a very important matter to be informed about?

Who would be the appropriate authority to provide that information so that one could ask the appropriate authority? I would have thought it would be the department of education. In seeking this other information, I am assuming—it is possibly a wrong assumption—that sex education would limit that particular number.

Answer:

Sex Education Programmes

There is no administrative data on students leaving school before completing Year 12 because of pregnancy or parenthood. See also answer to QON E527_05.

Collecting information from students about the reasons for leaving school before completing Year 12 requires contacting former students by mail, telephone or in person. The most authoritative source of this kind of information is the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth (LSAY) which is funded by the Australian Government. See also answer to QON E527_05 for more detailed information about the LSAY.