

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. E652_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

The Productivity Commission 2005 Report on Government Services shows that only 72% of Indigenous students at year three achieved the Yr Three reading benchmark (compared to 90% for all students). In light of all this evidence is any thought being given to reviewing proposed changes to funding for In-class tuition which would give no funds for tuition below Yr 4?

Answer:

ITAS

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, wrote to State and Territory Education Ministers on 29 November 2004, advising that in response to comments received on the exposure draft of the Indigenous Education Programmes (IEP) Provider Guidelines 2005-2008, that education systems/schools would have flexibility in the use of ITAS In-Class Tuition (ICT) funding. While a system's or independent school's entitlement will be determined by the number of Indigenous students in that system/school who failed to meet one or more of the literacy and numeracy benchmarks in years 3, 5 and 7, the system/school may use some in-class tuition funds for other Indigenous students who are at risk of not meeting the benchmarks and outcome standards for their age level, including those in the early years.

A monitoring and reporting framework has been developed for ITAS to assess the programme's progress and effectiveness.

There is, of course, nothing precluding education providers from utilising some of the per capita IESIP Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA) funding (\$513 million over the 2005-2008 quadrennium) for early year tuition support. Likewise, per capita general recurrent funds and targeted assistance funding, made available to providers through the Australian Government's mainstream school programmes, is also able to be used for this purpose as, of course, are providers own source mainstream funds.