

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1– Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E655_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

The \$700 voucher scheme was originally to be piloted in 2004, and we were told in estimates (EWRE June 1st Pg 181) that Indigenous students getting in-class tuition would not be able to “double dip “ and get the \$700 as well. Now that the voucher scheme is only just starting and you have changed the policy where children in Years 1-3 cannot get in-class tuition is there any way that such students who are struggling with reading can access the vouchers?

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative

During the development of the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative the position regarding Indigenous students in receipt of support under the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) was reconsidered.

Parents/caregivers of Indigenous students who were below the Year 3 national reading benchmark in 2003 are now eligible to access assistance under the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative. This includes the parents/caregivers of Indigenous students who may already be in receipt of in-class tuition support under ITAS.

A decision concerning the participation in the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative of these students is best made jointly by parents, brokers and schools. Such a decision would take into account the type of programme and the number of hours of additional tuition already being undertaken through ITAS. If agreement cannot be reached the parent will have the final decision.