

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. E662_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Now that the guidelines are hopefully finalised can you tell us what the dispute or appeal procedure is if a school Indigenous parent group fails to get an application approved?

Answer:

Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000

The *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* (the Act) provides the basis for a number of Indigenous Education Programmes, including the Parent School Partnership Initiative. The Act, however, does not provide for a review of the merits of a decision about whether or not to enter an agreement to provide funding to a Parent School Partnerships Initiative applicant. Neither do the Parent School Partnership Initiative Guidelines provide for any merits review of a decision about whether or not to fund an applicant.

DEST will advise all applicants in writing if their Parent School Partnerships Initiative application for funding has been approved or not approved. If the project was not approved, reasons will be provided. If an unsuccessful applicant is not satisfied with this, he or she may write to the Branch Manager – Indigenous Business Management Branch or the Group Manager – Indigenous and Transitions Group seeking a 'statement of reasons' as to why their application was not approved.

Under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*, unsuccessful applicants can seek Federal Court review of decisions not to enter into agreements to provide funding.