

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. E705_05

Senator Aden Ridgeway provided in writing.

Question:

We have been informed that DEST funding was allocated for a capital works program for student accommodation of 40 beds in Yulara. This was two years ago and it appears this has not been built. How much was this funding and where has the money gone?

Answer:

Nyangatjatjara Corporation

A contract was executed between the Australian Government and Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation on 12 November 2003. Funding of \$2.3m will be provided as a contribution to the cost of constructing student accommodation facilities and related ancillary services at the Yulara Central Boarding Campus of Nyangatjatjara College.

To date the first two payments for a total of \$1.1m have been made. A total of seven payments are scheduled. The project is running behind its original schedule and it is currently due for completion by 13 June 2005. Progress payments are not made until receipt of satisfactory progress reports and financial acquittals as required under the contract.

Funding for the project was approved on 14 September 2002. Delays were encountered in executing the funding contract because of the need to first secure a Deed of Agreement involving a number of parties. The Deed was required because the land on which the College is situated is not owned by the Corporation, but is the subject of a series of leases and subleases. The Deed seeks to ensure the facilities constructed with Australian Government funding are used for the purposes for which the funding is provided for a period of at least 20 years.