

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. E711_05

Senator Ridgeway provided in writing.

Question:

Under the new ICC structure, DEST will have to be sending new people out to the ICCs in the regions since previously Regional Councils didn't administer education programs, is this right?

Answer:

ICC Structure

DEST has a long history of providing a range of services, including in relation to Indigenous Education programs, through a regional network of 41 District and seven State Offices. With ICCs replacing ATSIC/ATSIS offices in 22 regional locations, DEST has moved to ensure that its district offices provide appropriate support locating staff in ICCs in a number of locations.

When the 22 regional ICCs were established, DEST did not have a presence in seven of these locations, ie: Derby, Ceduna, Roma, Coffs Harbour, Tamworth, Bourke and Queanbeyan. DEST moved quickly to provide a presence in those locations.

Of the other 15 locations where former ATSIC offices were located, and where DEST also had a regional presence or District Office, the Department has co-located its offices with the ICC in seven locations to date. In Alice Springs, the DEST office has not co-located but is in the same building as the ICC.