

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. E717_05

Senator Ridgeway provided in writing.

Question:

How many Shared Responsibility Agreements are you in negotiation with communities for at the moment?

Answer:

Murdi Paaki Region

The Murdi Paaki Regional Council, DEST (as Lead Agency for the Australian Government) and the NSW Department of Education and Training (as the State Government's Lead Agency) signed a regional Shared Responsibility Agreement on 22 August 2003. Key regional priorities under this agreement fall into four broad categories:

- improving the health and well being of children and young people;
- improving educational attainment and school retention;
- helping families to raise healthy children; and
- strengthening community and regional governance structures.

Eight Shared Responsibility Agreements have been signed with the Bourke, Enngonia, Ngemba (Brewarrina) Community Working Parties and the Murdi Paaki Regional Council. The SRAs commit all partners to supporting initiatives and outcomes which are consistent with community and regional priorities.

Consultations regarding community-level Shared Responsibility Agreements are under way with communities whose Community Plans have been finalised or are nearing finalisation. It is anticipated that a further significant number of Shared Responsibility Agreements will be signed before the end of 2005.