

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. E723_05 & E725_05

Senator Ridgeway provided in writing.

Question:

From a legal perspective, who from an Indigenous community is bound to an SRA?

How will the SRAs be enforceable?

Answer:

Shared Responsibility Agreements

Shared Responsibility Agreements do not impose legally enforceable rights or obligations between the parties. The obligations set out in the Agreements are obligations, signed in a spirit of goodwill and partnership.

The Agreements allow for an element of flexibility. In acknowledging the need for flexibility, parties are cognisant of the need for the obligations of one or more of the parties to be modified in order to adapt to changing circumstances within communities.

Should issues arise because of one of the parties cannot fulfill its obligations, resulting in a Shared Responsibility failing to deliver a negotiated outcome, it is anticipated that parties would, in the first instance, revisit and renegotiate the expected outcomes.