

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. E728_05

Senator Ridgeway provided in writing.

Question:

Given the range of influences on, for example, the health of a child, or the retention of a student in school or VET, is it possible to evaluate an SRA on how successful the simple terms of the agreement have been? If it is possible, is it productive and worthwhile when the actual substantive outcomes may not be improved because of other factors?

Answer:

Shared Responsibility Agreements

The interrelatedness of these issues is recognised by Murdi Paaki communities and Agencies in the COAG Trial Site. To this end, when Shared Responsibility Agreements are negotiated, parties seek to identify and address factors that may thwart the achievement of a successful outcome.

Lead Agency representatives for the COAG Trial Site have access to interagency government forums that enable them to discuss such issues and learn from each others experience.

The broad priorities agreed to in the regional Shared Responsibility Agreement signed with the Murdi Paaki Regional Council, acknowledge that there are few 'simple issues' in the region and that the issue of Indigenous disadvantage requires a comprehensive and concerted effort on the part of governments and communities. There is an expectation that Agreements in the COAG Trial will seek to progress those wider priorities over time.