

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E736_05

Senator Allison asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 93.

Question:

Are the tender specifications or guidelines for tendering or whatever you call them available publicly?

Answer:

Evaluation of the Pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative

Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of the Pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative (TVI)

The evaluation will have two key focus areas:

(a) Impact of the pilot TVI on student reading development

The evaluation will determine the impact of the pilot TVI in relation to verifiable improvement in a student's reading skills.

In determining the impact on the students, the evaluation will need to consider:

- comparisons of pre and post tuition assessment;
- other evidence such as the parent's and tutor's comments and judgements as recorded on the *Parent/Caregiver Satisfaction Survey* and *Tutor Feedback Form*;
- effectiveness of the one-on-one out of school tuition model in assisting children to improve their reading skills;
- sufficiency of the Tutorial Voucher (\$700, GST exclusive) in assisting children to improve in reading;
- types of work programmes and tutoring methods that students undertook; and
- mechanisms for providing parents with information on tutor performance.

(b) Effectiveness of the pilot TVI to assist children who did not meet the Year 3 national reading benchmark in 2003

The evaluation will determine the effectiveness of the funding and conditions attached to the delivery model for the pilot TVI.

Specifically, the evaluation of the delivery model will need to consider:

- the role of brokers in administering the TVI, including their responsibility for contracting tutors, confirming child eligibility and liaising with parents and schools;
- the provision of information about the Initiative by brokers to parents/caregivers, including the availability of brokers as a contact point for parents/caregivers;
- the management of the administration of the Initiative by the broker, including effective use of the TVI Information Management System, payment of tutors and keeping of records and files;

- the access to a choice of tutors by parents, particularly in regional and remote areas;
- the effectiveness of delivery in regional and remote areas;
- the interaction the Initiative has with the school programme of participating children;
- the suitability of the venue where the tuition took place;
- the eligibility requirements for the Initiative; and
- the take-up and withdrawal rates in each State and Territory.

The evaluation should also look at areas and issues the Government should consider for any future decision to extend the pilot TVI.