

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance for Individuals including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E1100_06, E1101_06, E1102_06 & E1103_06

Senator Evans provided in writing.

Questions:

Was there a 63 per cent underspend in the actual expenditure of the IESIP programme in 2004-05?

Can you confirm that the \$142 million in IESIP funds not spent in 2004-05 has been rolled over into the IESIP 2005-6 budget? If not, why not?

The revised estimate for the 2005-06 IESIP budget is \$395 million. If the entire surplus (\$142 million) had been rolled over on top of the original estimate for 2005-06 (\$266 million) there would have been a total of \$408 million.

- a) What has happened to the missing \$13 million?
- b) To which specific programme has the \$14 million been transferred?
- c) Was the \$13 million returned to consolidated revenue? Where is the transfer of the \$13 million recorded in the revised estimates budget papers?

How does DEST intend to allocate \$395 million in the 2005-06 financial year? By how much will each specific programme under IESIP increase?

Answer:

Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme

No. The *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* (the Act) appropriates funds on a calendar year basis and allows for payments to be made over an 18 month period. The financial year estimate for 2004-05 reflected what was expected to be expensed from the 2004 and 2005 appropriations under the Act. While there was an under expense in 2004-05, the budget is rolled over into 2005-06.

The quoted under expense of \$142 million is not correct. It does not allow for expenditure of \$16.4 million in 2004-05 on elements of the Away from Base and Indigenous Education Direct Assistance (IEDA) programmes. The revised estimate for 2005/06 (\$395 million) also reflects changes resulting from a number of factors including revised enrolment numbers and changes to the expense profile for 2006 appropriations. Taking all these into account the rollover into 2005/06 is \$129 million.

Of the \$395 million in the revised 2005-06 Budget, \$27 million is for mixed-mode Away from Base. The \$368 million is for Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA) and Targeted Projects. SRA is distributed to States and Territories and other education providers on a per capita basis and will fluctuate with enrolment changes.