

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1

DEST Question No. E848_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Investing in Our Schools Program

1. Can you provide an update on the processing of applications in the Investing in Our Schools Program?
2. How many applications from the first round are yet to be assessed?
3. What is the current state of play with Round 2? Are all the applications in yet? How many have you received? What is the timeline for processing them?
4. How many staff work on this program, at what cost?
5. In answer E523_07, you provide detail of funding for this program for government and non-government schools. Can you explain those figures?
6. Why do government schools get \$380m in 2006-07 and only \$93m the following year?
7. Why are the amounts for non-government schools steady at \$80m per year?
8. How do these allocations work out per student for each sector?

Answer:

Investing in Our Schools Program

1. All Round 1, 2 and 3 applications from state government schools have been announced.
2. All applications from the first round have been announced.
3. There were 3,695 applications received for Round 2. All applications from the second round have been assessed and announced.
4. The programme has 98 ASL, with the total departmental appropriation to DEST for the IOSP in the 2006-07 year being \$11.3 million.
5. The figures provided in E523_07 regarding funding for Investing In Our Schools are estimated Financial Year expenses managed by the Department on behalf of the Government according to set government directions within the accrual budgeting framework. These figures were published in the 2006/07 Budget Paper No.3, in Table B1, Specific Purpose Payments, Capital purposes.

6. On 6 April 2006, an amendment to the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004* received Royal Assent. The amendment brought forward all funds for the government sector from 2008 to 2006.
7. The amounts for non-government schools are at \$80 million per year in accordance with Schedule 5 of the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004*. There was no need to amend the year by year funding allocations for the non-government sector because applications for that sector are managed through the Catholic and Independent Block Grant Authorities which worked with their schools to spread out applications over the years.
8. Of the \$1.181 billion allocated to IOSP, \$827 million or 70% has been directed to students in state schools and \$354 million or 30% to students in the non-government sector. These percentages reflect the approximate proportion of students in each sector.