

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:**

**Output Group:**

**DEST Question No. E869\_07**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

**Question:**

Accelerated Learning Program

Back on August 26<sup>th</sup> 2004, the then Minister Nelson announced funding of \$3 million over 3 years ( 2004 – 07) for an accelerated learning program to improve education for low achieving children and adults in remote Australia. The program was the Yachad Accelerated Learning Project (YALP) and was aimed at reducing the literacy gap between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians.

1. How was an Israeli University selected when other accelerated learning programs exist in Australia?
2. Who made the decision to use that program?
3. Who was on their Advisory Board?
4. Is Professor Langton still a member and if not when did she leave the Board?
5. At which sites have they actually operated since 2004?
6. How long do they spend at each site?
7. How many staff go to each site?
8. Are they all qualified teachers?
9. How many students have been involved at each site?
10. What evaluation of their programs at each site was carried out and by whom?
11. Do you have any evaluation reports from any of the sites and if so could we get copies?
12. What outcomes has the program achieved?

**Answer:**

1. A proposal was received from proponents of the project Yachad Accelerated Learning Project Ltd (YALP), an Australian company. The proposal was based on the accelerated learning methodology being used in Israel and its potential applicability to improve learning outcomes for Indigenous Australians.
2. The then Minister for Education, Science and Training in April 2004.
3. YALP advise that its Advisory Board is comprised of:  
Mr Paul Briggs AM  
The Hon John Button

Senator Mitch Fifield  
 Mr Brendan Hammond  
 Mr Mark Leibler AC  
 Mr Michael Naphfali  
 Mr Tim O'Leary

4. YALP advise that Professor Langton was not a member of the Advisory Board. Professor Langton was, at one stage, one of several project leaders with YALP, but left the project at the end of 2005.
5. The first sites with a YALP programme in place were established in 2005.

Site	2005	2006	2007
Gowrie Street Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Mooroopna Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Shepparton High School	✓	✓	✓
Wanganui Secondary School	✓		
Western Cape College – Aurukun Campus	✓	✓	✓
Halls Creek Secondary School	✓	✓	✓
Yipirinya School		✓	✓
SA Aboriginal Sports Training Academy		✓	✓
Kaurna Plains Aboriginal School			✓

6. YALP advise that Israeli Educators visit each site, twice each year for approximately six weeks per visit.
7. YALP advise that between one and four staff members go to each site.
8. YALP advise that the Israeli Educators are either qualified teachers, teacher trainers or tutors trained in the YALP methodology at HUJI.
9. YALP advise that in respect of 2005 and 2006 the total numbers of students involved in instruction through the YALP project was as follows:

State/Territory	2005	2006
Victoria	92	77
Queensland	20	42
Western Australia	20	61
Northern Territory	0	43
South Australia	0	10
TOTAL	132	233

10. & 11. Phillips KPA has been selected by the Australian Government to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency of the project, and to assess the extent to which YALP is meeting its stated objectives. The final report from the evaluation is expected in mid 2007.
12. The independent evaluation, referred to in questions 10 and 11 above, will report on outcomes across the pilot sites.