

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E133_05

Senator Allison provided in writing.

Question:

What is the total Federal Government expenditure on the national Safe Schools Framework for 2004 and estimated to be for 2005-08?

Please provide the details of any Government modelling of the cost for schools who formally commit to the National Safe Schools Framework and the details of the commitment required by the Government.

Answer:

National Safe Schools Framework

The *National Safe Schools Framework* (NSSF) reaffirms principles and practices that schools should implement as a matter of course in fulfilling their fundamental mission of providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Therefore, the Government has not undertaken any modelling of the cost for schools of implementing the NSSF.

The Australian government has provided \$4.5 million in 2004 and 2005 for the implementation of the NSSF. This includes:

- \$3 million for teacher professional learning to support the implementation;
- \$1 million for a grants project to help schools select and implement effective, evidence-based, best practice programmes to address bullying, violence and abuse;
- \$300,000 for materials and other support to guide schools in the implementation of the NSSF; and
- \$200,000 to support the *Bullying. No Way!* Website for a further five years (www.bullyingnoway.com.au)

The legislation covering Australian Government recurrent school funding for the next quadrennium requires the Framework's implementation in all schools.

All Education Ministers agreed in July 2002 that MCEETYA's annual *National Report on Schooling in Australia* (ANR) will provide the transparent vehicle, at the national level, for public reporting on the application of the *National Safe Schools Framework*. In accordance with the Ministers' decision, the ANR will include an Appendix each year, from 2005, on measures to implement the *National Safe Schools Framework*.

The reporting cycle will commence in 2005. A regular annual report on the implementation of the *Framework*, from 2005 onwards, allows for a transition year for jurisdictions to undertake appropriate alignment processes.

The NSSF's six 'Key Elements' will be the organising framework for jurisdictions' reports, as these are the nationally agreed key areas across which all planning and interventions should

occur. The Appendix to the ANR will have the heading 'New Strategies, Initiatives and Highlights'. Jurisdictions will describe these in the context of the Framework's Key Elements of good practice:

1. school values, ethos, culture, structures and student welfare
2. policies, programmes and procedures
3. education/training for school staff, students and parents
4. managing incidents of abuse/victimization
5. providing support for students
6. working closely with parents

Each jurisdiction (government and non-government) will provide text at a systemic level, including relevant school examples as appropriate.