

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.2 – Assistance to individuals including those with special needs.

#### **DEST Question No. E026\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

**Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers (AIEWs)** (*National Indigenous education report 2003 pp.48-50*)

- (a) Does the Commonwealth provide any specific funding for the professional development of AIEWs?
- (b) Has the Commonwealth considered providing such funding?
- (c) What measures has the Commonwealth taken to increase the numbers of AIEWs in government school systems who are undergoing professional development and formal study – so that these levels match those in Catholic systems?

#### **Answer:**

- (a) & (b) The Australian Government provides Supplementary Recurrent Assistance to education providers under the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme (IESIP) on a per capita basis. This funding can be used, and is used, by education providers to employ Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers and to provide them with professional development opportunities.

*What Works*, an Indigenous education flagship project, funded by the Australian Government, provides professional development support for teachers and school leaders. This project includes a planning tool for schools to engage with AIEWS, parents and the community.

In addition, the Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme (AGQTP) is an initiative for improving the quality of teaching and school leadership in Australia. Through education authorities, funding is provided for professional learning projects for qualified teachers and school leaders. While not a target group under the AGQTP, some authorities have included AIEWS in professional learning activities where their participation is integral to the activity.

- (c) The Australian Government encourages education providers, including government school systems, to provide professional development and formal study opportunities for AIEWs by requiring providers receiving Supplementary Recurrent Assistance to report on professional learning and by setting targets to increase the number of AIEWs undertaking formal study.