

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. E030_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 15.

Question:

The overarching Murdi Paaki SRA speaks of, as I understand it, a number of targets or objectives. One of those targets is that there be a secretariat of sixteen people in place under these community working parties within six months.

- a) How is the department going on reaching that target?
- b) How many are in place at the moment?
- c) How does the department intend to refresh the secretariat?

Answer:

Murdi Paaki SRA

- (a) 14 of the 16 communities in Murdi Paaki have had a secretariat trainee employed under their Community Working Party (CWP). Two communities that have not taken up the offer of a secretariat trainee had accessed secretariat support from local Aboriginal organisations. It is expected that both communities will take up the offer of secretariat support.
- (b) Seven secretariat support positions are currently in place in the communities of Ivanhoe, Walgett, Coonamble, Gulargambone, Lightning Ridge, Weilmoringle, and Goodooga.

The communities of Enngonia and Collarenebri are finalising employment contracts to enable new secretariat support personnel to begin. Cobar, Wilcannia and Bourke communities are undertaking selection processes for their positions. Brewarrina and Menindee are advertising vacant positions, and Wentworth and Broken Hill are considering their arrangements.

- (c) The training element to the secretariat positions facilitates career progression for individuals. There have been 18 Indigenous people employed in these positions, 11 of whom have moved on from the positions to pursue other opportunities.