

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. E031_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 16.

Question:

Secretariat support for Murdi Paaki

Why are the sixteen places in the secretariat being funded under CDEP? Why wasn't it being funded by the department under normal wages and conditions?

Answer:

Secretariat support for Murdi Paaki

The secretariat positions were established in response to an expressed need from the Indigenous communities for administrative support for local governance bodies (Community Working Parties). The positions were established as traineeship opportunities for local Indigenous young people to gain work skills and to build capacity within Indigenous organisations and communities. These positions are additional to other professional and technical support provided to the sixteen communities to assist with the development and implementation of Community Plans.

Flexible use of CDEP places was used as a foundation for traineeships. The Department of Employment, Workplace Relations (DEWR) supplements CDEP funding with additional funding of up to \$176,000 per annum under the Structured Training and Employment Project (STEP) and DEST is providing \$352,000 over two years to support on-costs for each position. NSW TAFE provides structured, accredited training in business administration to support the trainees.