

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E069_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 25.

Question:

- (a) Who is Victor Price?
- (b) Could you provide me with information as to his expertise in data compilation and analysis?
- (c) This isn't the only contract that Mr Price has been awarded, is it?
- (d) You couldn't put him on the payroll?
- (e) When did Mr Price leave the department?
- (f) Why doesn't the department have this expertise available to it?

Answer:

Victor Price

- (a) Mr Victor Price is a former departmental officer with highly specialised statistical skills in the compilation and interpretation of schools and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) national Census data.
- (b) Mr Price has nearly 40 years experience working the field of education and population statistics. He has worked for the ABS, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Commonwealth Schools Commission and the Department. This experience has enabled Mr Price to undertake a range of specialised analytical tasks associated with the implementation and monitoring of the SES funding arrangements, such as:
 - detailed analysis of schools census and Financial Questionnaire data;
 - analysis of trends in staff, students and financial data relating to the sector;
 - analysis of State government funding of the non-government school sector;
 - research and analysis into non-government school fees;
 - analysis of Census Collection Districts (CDs) from which non-government school students are drawn;
 - investigation of aspects of the SES methodology and its impact on various groups of schools; and
 - interpretation and analysis of ABS Population Census data using *CData1996* and *CData2001*.
- (c) No.
- (d) Mr Price is currently employed by the Department on a non-ongoing basis.
- (e) Mr Price was a full-time employee of the Department until 1994.
- (f) Mr Price's statistical and analytical skills and his detailed knowledge of the ABS Population Census, the Financial Questionnaire for Non-government Schools, the Schools Census and the Australian Government's funding arrangements for non-government schools are being utilised to augment expertise within the Department.