

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance for individuals including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E082_06

Senator Carr asked on 2 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 8.

Question:

Could you indicate to me the qualifications of the tutors that Progressive Learning intends to employ?

I would like to know precisely what the education qualifications of the tutors are that are being employed in this project

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative – qualifications of tutors employed by Progressive Learning

The recruitment of tutors for the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative will be ongoing throughout the pilot. As at 15 July 2005, the qualifications of the tutors employed by Progressive Learning for the pilot are:

- In Victoria, of the 293 tutors employed, 251 are qualified teachers (199 primary and 52 secondary). A further 20 are currently studying for a teaching qualification, and 22 have relevant experience.
- In Queensland, of the 212 tutors employed, 174 are qualified teachers (148 primary and 26 secondary). A further 6 are currently studying for a teaching qualification, and 32 have relevant experience.

Details of the level of qualifications of these tutors are presented in the following table:

State	Completed Postgraduate study	Completed Degree	Completed Diploma or Certificate	Studying for Degree or Diploma	Relevant experience	TOTAL
Victoria	17	165	69	20	22	293
Queensland	17	111	46	6	32	212
TOTAL	34	276	115	26	54	505

In addition to the above tutors, Progressive Learning has also employed a number of speech pathologists (5 in Victoria and 2 in Queensland) to provide specialist assistance.

The employment of these tutors and specialist providers is in accordance with the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative Broker / Tutor Guidelines, which state that:

Prospective Tutors must demonstrate relevant formal academic tertiary qualifications in education, such as a Diploma or Bachelor of Education, or partial completion of teaching qualifications that are recognised in Australia. (In these instances Tutors, at a minimum, must currently be enrolled in a teacher training course and successfully completed at

least half of the course including successfully completing all thus far scheduled practicums associated with the course).

In some circumstances, other qualified specialist service providers who are experienced in supporting children in their reading development, teachers' aides or unqualified persons with extensive teaching experience may be acceptable. For teachers' aides or unqualified persons with extensive teaching experience, a letter of recommendation from their current, or if currently unemployed their most recent, employer is required. In these and related circumstances the Broker will determine the suitability of applicants.

The pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative Broker/Tutor Guidelines also require that tutors have:

- *experience in, or a background suited to establishing a positive relationship with the parent/caregiver and student;*
- *experience in, or a background suited to understanding and meeting the educational needs of the student target group;*
- *specific knowledge of early literacy and child development stages and the strategies to assist students in their reading literacy development;*
- *knowledge of pre-assessment and post-assessment methodologies and the use of the pre-assessment results to develop a programme(s) of individual tuition suitable to meet the needs of the student target group; and*
- *the capacity to plan and advise parents/caregivers how the focus of the tuition can be integrated with the broader school reading programmes so that the sustainability of the tuition can be maintained.*