

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E115_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

(a) Is it accurate to state that the National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy initiated by the Minister on 30 November has as one of its central themes to:

Identify the extent to which prospective teachers are provided with reading teaching approaches and skills that are effective in the classroom, and have the opportunities to develop and practice the skills required to implement effective classroom reading programs (from objectives of inquiry on website)?

(b) How does the inquiry into teacher education differ from this inquiry and how does it differ from the inquiry conducted by Kwong Lee Dow in 2003?

Answer:

National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy

(a) Yes, this is one of five objectives that the Committee of Inquiry will address.

(b) The terms of reference for the National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy relate to issues affecting the teaching of literacy in Australian schools.

The House of Representatives Inquiry into Teacher Education is broader in scope and will inquire into and report on the scope, suitability, organisation, resourcing and delivery of teacher training courses in Australia's public and private universities. The Inquiry will also examine the preparedness of graduates to meet the current and future demands of teaching in Australia's schools.

The Review of Teaching and Teacher Education was an initiative under the Government's innovation statement *Backing Australia's Ability*. The purpose of the review was to identify strategies to increase the numbers of talented people who are attracted to teaching as a career, especially in the fields of science, technology and mathematics education, and to build a culture of continuous innovation at all levels of schooling in Australia.