

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. E129_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 14.

Question:

Murdi Paaki: Have any other consultants been employed other than facilitators? If so, please provide details of the facilitators' work and, in particular, what communications consultancies have been undertaken.

Answer:

Community Governance Workshops' Facilitator - 2004-2005

- Australian Strategic Services has provided consultancy services to facilitate a total of three Murdi Paaki Community Governance workshops during 2004 and 2005.

Facilitators for Community Action Plans

- Funding has been available to communities to engage consultants to develop Community Action Plans. The Plans enable communities to clarify and express clearly what their priorities are and how governments can help them to achieve these. These plans will inform the development of further Shared Responsibility Agreements. The Department of Family and Community Services allocated \$160,000.00, the Department of Indigenous and Multicultural affairs allocated \$49,860.00, and the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs allocated \$100,000.00, while ATSI provided \$15,325.00 to support the development of the plans.

Urbis Consultancy - Murdi Paaki Governance Project

- A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Murdi Paaki Trial was implemented in March 2005.
- Urbis JHD Pty Ltd (Sydney) was contracted by DEST and DET (NSW) at a cost of \$10,000 each to evaluate the effectiveness of community governance structures, and to identify issues that may either improve or hinder the development of effective partnerships.
- Six Indigenous communities participated in a series of focus groups (Bourke, Lightning Ridge, Goodooga, Gulargambone, Menindee, and Broken Hill). The project is scheduled for completion by late 2005.

GHD Consultancy – Goodooga feasibility study

- In response to a community identified need, DEST engaged GHD in June 2005 to undertake a feasibility study in Goodooga to consider the viability of building a new space or developing existing spaces for the community and young people to meet. The total cost of the study was \$2,850.

Spring Consultancy Services

- Spring Consultancy Services was engaged by DEST to provide a range of services over the period May 2003 to June 2004. One aspect of the broad range of work for which the consultant

was engaged was to provide services in respect of the external evaluation and facilitation of DEST's contributions to COAG Task Force Pilots including Murdi Paaki.