

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

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

DEST Question No. E011_07

Senator Crossin asked on 31 May 2006 EWRE Hansard page 109.

Question:

Does an agreement to give up their land on a 99 year lease have to be signed before the \$10 million is released to the community?

Answer:

Tiwi leasing

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, through the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) is managing the agreement with the Tiwi community.

The Office advises that the Tiwi community has not been asked to sign an agreement to 'give up their land' but rather to enter into negotiations on a head lease over the township area of Nguiu. Under these arrangements, the underlying freehold title will still be held by the traditional owners.

The Australian Government's \$10 million contribution to the construction of the Tiwi College was committed as part of the negotiations. The construction will be managed on behalf of the Australian Government by the Northern Territory Block Grant Authority and the funds will be released progressively in line with the commitments made under a Shared Responsibility Agreement being coordinated by the OIPC and construction milestones.