

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. E020_07

Senator Troeth asked on 31 May 2006 EWRE 122.

Question:

(ITAS) Have there been any measurable outcomes from it?

Answer:

Outcomes from Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS)

The Review of the Indigenous Education Direct Assistance Program (IEDA), finalised in December 2003, included assessment of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the various elements of IEDA, including the Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ATAS). The Review found that “targeted individual tutoring is a necessary programme response to the Government’s overarching Indigenous learning priorities and policies, as articulated through the AEP” (2004 p 35). The Review also concluded that tutorial assistance “was effective in providing support not available from the mainstream for Indigenous students to participate in supplementary education services in the compulsory and post compulsory schooling” (2004 p 36).

A performance framework has been introduced for the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) for the 2005-2008 quadrennium.

A comprehensive study of ITAS is also planned. The study will gather evidence of the effectiveness and efficiency of ITAS.

While it is not yet possible to make a direct link between tutorial assistance and Indigenous student outcomes, there is emerging evidence of improvement in Indigenous achievement in most areas, including in literacy and numeracy, particularly at the Year 3 level.

The Indigenous scores in 2004 are at their highest on seven of the nine national literacy and numeracy benchmarks, and in eight of the nine cases, the gaps between Indigenous and all students’ outcomes are at their smallest.