

## 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. E291\_07**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

The PBS Page 52 shows funding of \$11m for 2006-07 and a further \$9.5m for 2007-08 for vouchers to pay for tutor assistance for students who have failed to reach the benchmark 2006 year 3 reading skills. However on PBS page 42 it says \$20.6m will be provided for 2007 school year.

1. Can you explain why these differences?
2. Why is funding only in the estimates for 2 years, 2006-07 and 2007-08?
3. Is this not an ongoing need to assist individuals with reading problems?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Reading Assistance Voucher programme – funding estimates*

1. The difference in funding amounts is caused by a discrepancy in separately rounding the figures from the two financial years.
2. Funding is estimated for the two financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 because the programme will provide assistance in the 2007 calendar year.
3. The Australian Government continues to make a significant contribution to support the most educationally disadvantaged students through the Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Programme. An estimated \$2 billion will be provided over the 2005-2008 quadrennium. The Schools Grants element of this programme will provide an estimated \$1.8 billion nationally over the quadrennium.