

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. E317_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

The continuation of the Tutorial Voucher Initiative will cover students failing to meet the 2006 benchmarks, while the initial scheme covered those who failed to meet the benchmarks in 2003.

1. What is planned for those students who failed to meet the benchmarks in 2004 and 2005?
2. If nothing is planned, what is the policy rationale for this decision?

Answer:

Support for students who do not meet benchmarks

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.

The Reading Assistance Voucher programme will deliver tuition in 2007 to address the immediate needs of those children not reaching minimum national standards, while broader literacy reform will be considered by the Council of Australian Governments.