

## 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. E344\_07**

Senator Wong provided in writing.

*Refers to DEST Question No E023\_06.*

#### **Question:**

Indigenous education statistics. Please update E023\_06.

The National Report to Parliament for 2003 tells us that there has been little improvement – and some losses – in performance of Indigenous students in literacy and numeracy over the period 2001-2003.

Performance is still behind, and well behind in some states and territories and at some levels.

- (a) Given this situation, how seriously does DEST view the delays and problems in the funding and implementation of the in-class tuition program for 2005?
- (b) How many students needing assistance had funding for their program delayed?
- (c) Have the problems now been resolved?"

#### **Answer:**

*Update to E023\_06*

With six years of data now available, there appears to be evidence of improvement in Indigenous achievement in literacy and numeracy, and in particular, 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.

All major education providers will be delivering In-Class Tuition during the 2005-2008 quadrennium. Indigenous Education Agreement Schedules for In-Class Tuition with the major providers have now all been signed.

As In-Class Tuition is delivered by the education providers we are unable to quantify the number of participants until performance reports are received. See E027\_07.