

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome

DEST Question No. E115_08

Senator Crossin asked on 31 May 2007, EWRE Hansard page 80.

Question:

Senator CROSSIN—I understand. I am trying to get a handle on how many Indigenous students are actually out there and how many are enrolled that trigger your funding. Do you know the difference?

Mr Greer—We could take that question on notice. We know, for instance, that young Indigenous people represent about 40 per cent of the total Indigenous population. That is about twice the level of non-Indigenous young people under 14.

Answer:

Indigenous Student Numbers

The ABS has recently commenced the progressive release of 2006 population census data. ABS reports a total of 137,382 Indigenous persons aged 5-16 years which covers the years of compulsory school attendance across States and Territories, variously from 5 or 6 to 15 or 16. In earlier censuses, the ABS estimated the undercount of Indigenous people in the census at 12% or more. The ABS estimate of the undercount in the 2006 census is not yet available.

ABS "Schools Australia 2006" (4221.0, Table 10) reports 140,381 full time Indigenous school student enrolments in 2006. It does not report part time Indigenous enrolments, which the Department estimates on the basis of administrative data at around 1500 in 2006.

Australian Government funding was provided in 2006 on a per capita basis through Supplementary Recurrent Assistance for 141,103 full time equivalent Indigenous school students in Government and non-Government schools.