

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome

DEST Question No. E119_08

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

1. In DEST PBS at page 42 IOSP has funding of \$195.9 million over 2 years in this final round. However the press release mentioned above announces \$181 million extension – so is this \$181 million the only real new money?
2. Do you have the figures for expenditure to date for each of the years this program has run?
3. Do you have any data on how many schools have actually received no funding to date? If that is too big an ask do you have that information just for the Northern Territory?
4. How many schools have applied so far for the final round of funding?
5. Do you have any hoped for timeline for announcing the successful schools?
6. If a school is applying to ‘top up’ funding to the maximum allowed, do they have to acquit any previously granted funds first?
7. Why is this the last round of funding? Why stop a successful program?

Answer:

Investing In Our Schools Programme

1. The \$181 million funding extension to the IOSP is the new money that has been made available for school communities in 2007. This is in addition to the \$1 billion already committed to the programme since 2005. A further amount of \$14.9 million was allocated to cover Departmental expenses associated with the Programme.
2. IOSP funding has been approved in previous years as follows:

Programme Year	Approved IOSP Funding – Government Schools	Approved IOSP Funding – Non-government Schools
2005 Application Rounds	\$348.9 million	\$72.5 million
2006 Application Round	\$307.3 million	\$94.6 million
TOTAL	\$656.2 million	\$167.1 million

3. At the commencement of 2007, there were approximately 1,555 state government schools and 1,317 non-government schools that had not received IOSP funding. In the Northern Territory, there were approximately 60 state government schools and 20 non-government schools that had not received funding.

4. At the close of the final state government 2007 Round IOSP application period, 2,563 state government schools applied for funding. Only state government schools apply directly to the Australian Government for IOSP funding. Non-government IOSP funding is allocated through the existing Block Grant Authority arrangements and there are no set application round periods.
5. Announcement of successful projects is a matter for the Government.
6. The application and acquittal processes are mutually exclusive. Although schools must acquit the IOSP funds for their projects, those schools experiencing delays in completing projects were not precluded from applying in the 2007 Round.
7. The *Investing in Our Schools Programme* was originally announced as a non-ongoing programme. The continuation of the Programme is a decision for the Australian Government.