

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome

DEST Question No. E163_08

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

There are many elements to the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Program, but little or no detail or expenses shown in the DEST PBS or in Budget Paper 2 for 2007-08.

1. Is this because there is actually no new money being put in?
2. The Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) is one element – for In class tuition. Could you tell the committee how much was allocated for 2006? How much was actually spent on ITAS in 2006?
3. How much was budgeted for 2007 and how much spent to date?
4. At page 59 of the DEST PBS under performance indicators, the performance for ITAS is the number of school students participating. For 2006 that estimated number was 22,555. Can you tell us what the actual figure was?
5. Tuition for senior students was extended to year 9, commencing 2007. Could you tell us how many Indigenous students are accessing tuition in year 9, 10, 11 and 12?
6. How much funding was allocated and actually spent on this program in 2006 for years 10, 11 and 12, and if possible to date this year including year 9?
7. Whole of School Intervention Strategy had a performance indicator for 2006 estimated as 1175 projects approved. How many were actually approved?
8. How much was spent on these projects in 2006?
9. How many of these projects were homework centres?
10. How many projects have been approved to date for 2007?
11. How many are homework centres?
12. Is there any available list of 2007 approved projects? If successful applications have not yet been announced when is it expected to do this?
13. The Whole of School Intervention Strategy has a slight fall in performance indicator numbers in 2007 to an estimated 1100 projects approved. While only small it is a decline – why do expect less projects in 2007?

Answer:

Indigenous Education Programme

The Education, Science and Training (EST) PBS sets out details of the expense estimates for the Indigenous Education Programme (IEP) under Special Appropriations on page 35 and Outcome Resources and Performance Information on page 40. The budget estimate for 2007-08 is \$311,929,000.

1. The 2007-08 Budget provides an additional \$214 million in increased education and training funding to support Indigenous education, particularly to support Indigenous students living in remote communities where secondary education and training choices are limited.

This includes two measures which increased funding under the IEP. Funding details are set out on page 27 of the EST PBS titled "A Better Future for Indigenous Australians – building an indigenous workforce in government service delivery" (\$15.1m over 2007-08 to 2010-11) and "A Better Future for Indigenous Australians – opportunities for education" (\$84.5m over 2007-08 to 2010-11).

The passage of the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment (2007 Budget Measures) Act 2007* increased the appropriations under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* for the 2007 and 2008 funding years by a total of \$26.055m (in initial 2005 prices) to give effect to these new budget measures.

Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme

In-Class Tuition

2. The allocation for Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme In Class Tuition element in 2006 was \$26.4 million. Approximately \$34.2 million was expended under In Class Tuition in 2006, and some \$51.7 million was expended under all ITAS elements in 2006.
3. The allocation for In Class Tuition is \$26.4 million in 2007. As at 11 July 2007, approximately \$11.9 million had been paid to education providers under In Class Tuition.
4. The Department will not be in a position to provide actual numbers of Indigenous students who received tuition until all funded education providers submit their relevant 2006 performance reports. 2006 performance report by providers were due 31 May 2007, however not all providers have submitted their reports.

Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Tuition

5. The Department will provide actual numbers of Indigenous students who received Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Tuition when funded education providers submit their 2007 performance reports. 2007 performance reports by providers are due 31 May 2008.
6. The notional allocation for Year 10, 11 and 12 Tuition was \$10.4 million in 2006. Approximately \$7.1 million was expended under Year 10, 11 and 12 Tuition in 2006. \$11.6 million had been committed in respect of 2007 Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Tuition, of which some \$2.05 million had been expended, as at 11 July 2007.

Whole of School Intervention Strategy

7. 1175 Whole of School Intervention Strategy projects were approved over three funding rounds in 2006.
8. \$32.4 million was approved for 1175 projects in 2006. An additional \$30.1 million was leveraged from other funding sources for those projects.
9. 218 of the projects were Homework Centres.

10. 450 projects were approved in Round 1 of 2007.
11. 86 Homework Centres were approved in Round 1 of 2007.
12. Projects approved in the first funding round of 2007 are published on the DEST website. www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/programmes_funding/whole_of_school_intervention_strategy_funding.
13. An additional \$5 million was provided to fund early childhood projects over three years (2006 to 2008). Approximately 50% of these funds were committed during the October 2006 funding round. The remaining 50% of the early childhood funding will be expended during 2007 and 2008. This may result in a small reduction in the number of projects.