

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for schools

DEST Question No. E419_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003.

Refers to DEST Question E286_04

Question:

- (a) The Department provides information about Wilgie View Learning Centre. When did the Department look closely at the status of this provider?
- (b) Has the Department been monitoring the school-level enrolments of this provider?
- (c) Given the exceedingly small enrolments of this school – when it's intermittently a school – it would seem that the Department should consider alternative arrangements for determining funding levels based on enrolments. Has the Department considered this option – to ensure that funds are not flowing to entities that actually have no school-level enrolments?
- (d) What are the school enrolments at this provider in 2003? Have they remained stable?

Answer:

Wilgie View Learning Centre, WA

- (a) Wilgie View Learning Centre with an incorporated body known as Wilgie View Learning Centre Inc was approved as a primary school in Western Australia in 2001. The school's approved authority met all of the legislative requirements under the *States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act 2000* (the Act) before Australian Government recurrent funding was approved.
- (b) Enrolments are closely monitored for all new schools in their formative years. Schools that do not meet the required legislative conditions can be removed from the list of non-government schools required to be kept under the Act.
- (c) Australian Government recurrent funding is based on the funding arrangements applicable under the Act for the 2001-2004 funding quadrennium. It is not possible to provide alternative funding arrangements for individual non-government schools. Actual entitlements are based on enrolments provided by the school at the annual School's census day and those schools without enrolments would not receive an entitlement for the year.
- (d) As at School's Census day 2003, Wilgie View reported 4 students attending the school. Enrolments have declined since the commencement of the school from 8.1 in 2001.