

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E440_04

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003.

Question:

- (a) This program (around \$35m in 2003-04) is due to terminate in 2004. Will it be extended for a further 3 years?
- (b) If we have to wait until Budget 2004, will this give enough time for teachers and schools to prepare? (This was a problem in 2001-2).
- (c) Has the program been evaluated? If so, what are the general findings? Nothing negative?
- (d) How will the outcomes of the program be measured?
 - Improved student learning? On what grounds?
 - Increased teachers' knowledge and skills? On what grounds?
- (e) How will this be linked to the development of professional teaching standards?

Answer:

Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme

- (a). The Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme (AGQTP) was allocated \$82.4 million over 2003-03 to 2004-05 inclusive. It is due to lapse in June 2005. Extension beyond June 2005, and the duration of any extension can be subject to the 2005-06 Budget process.
- (b). Yes.
- (c) A full evaluation of the programme is being undertaken in 2004.
- (d) The evaluation is expected to assess the programme in terms of its objectives to update and improve the skill and understanding of teachers in priority areas and to enhance the status of teaching. The evaluation is also expected to consider the impact of the programme on student learning.
- (e) Priority areas for the AGQTP 2003 State and Territory professional learning projects include supporting the development and implementation of professional standards for teachers and for students. A number of education authorities are conducting activities in this area. In addition, the AGQTP has funded a number of strategic projects to investigate professional teaching standards. The impact of these projects on achievement of the objectives of the AGQTP will be considered as part of the full evaluation.