

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Outcome: All

Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E337_05

Senator Ludwig, provided in writing.

Question:

Culturally responsive and accessible services

For the each of the i) 1999-00, ii) 2000-01, iii) 2001-02, iv) 2002-03, v) 2003-04 financial years, did the department budget for costs associated with developing culturally responsive and accessible services?

For the 2003-04 financial year, how much did the department budget for this purpose?

Answer:

The Department provides operating budgets to individual business areas based on business plans. Specific costs associated with developing culturally responsive and accessible services are generally met within individual budgets and are not separately budgeted for or identified.

Corporately, the Department funds the following initiatives that support our commitment to workplace diversity through our people; the initiatives are designed to help maintain a workplace that values, uses and benefits from the contributions of people of different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives:

The Department's Indigenous Australian Recruitment and Career Development Strategy, known as *Yarrangi*, was established in 1993 and provides development opportunities and ongoing support for existing Indigenous Australian employees. The budget for *Yarrangi* in 2003-04 was \$40,000.

Specific Training for the Indigenous Education Network (TIEN) was piloted in December 2003 and is being delivered over 2004-05. The programme aims to develop the capability of DEST staff to better deliver Indigenous Education programmes directly to the public and education providers. The budget in 2003-04 for TIEN was \$750,000.

Indigenous Cross Cultural Awareness programmes are funded on a cyclical basis, depending on identified demand. The objective of these programmes is to help participants develop strategies for increasing cultural competence in the workplace. The most recent programme delivered in 2000-01 and 2001-02 had a budget of \$28,000.

In relation to the Portfolio Agencies the following responses have been provided.

AIMS

Not applicable

ANSTO

Not applicable. Individual members of the general public do not deal with ANSTO in the capacity of clients.

ANTA

ANTA does not provide services directly to clients from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds and therefore did not budget for costs for developing such services in any of these financial years.

ARC

The ARC was created on 1 July 2001. Since July 1 2001, the ARC has not specifically budgeted for culturally responsive and accessible services.

CSIRO

As a national research organisation, CSIRO carries out research and development for clients and collaborators in government, industry and the scientific community. CSIRO does not have a specific budget for the development of culturally responsive and accessible services.