

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: All

Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E506_06 - Final

Senator Evans provided in writing.

Question:

Provide the number and percentage of Indigenous staff in the Department at present? How many are specifically working on the COAG trial? What percentage?

Provide the number and percentage of Indigenous staff in the Department in 2004 and 2003? If the number has decreased, please explain the reason.

Answer:

Indigenous Australian Staff

Number and Percentage of DEST Staff – ongoing and non-ongoing (including Questacon)¹			
Date	31 Dec 2003	31 Dec 2004	31 Dec 2005
Indigenous Staff	178	191	200
Percentage	9.48	9.52	8.46
Total Staff	1877	2006	2363

The number of Indigenous staff has not decreased.

The Murdi Paaki COAG trial is supported by a team of DEST officers located in Dubbo New South Wales, who work directly with the Indigenous communities of the region. This team is comprised of one:

- o Executive Level 2;
- o Executive Level 1;
- o Australian Public Servant (APS) 6; and
- o Australian Public Servant (APS) 4.

In addition, the trial also receives substantial support from the NSW State Manager and DEST's National Office through the close engagement of DEST's senior executive, and the support provided by two Executive Level officers from the Indigenous Education Policy Branch.

Of the DEST employees currently working directly on the Murdi Paaki COAG trial, three, or 1.5% (of DEST's total Indigenous Australian Staff) have identified as being from an Indigenous Australian background.

¹ Note that the State of the Service Report 2004-2005 reports DEST's proportion of Indigenous employees as 10.3%. The figure in the State of the Service Report is based on ongoing employees only and excludes Questacon.