

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.2 - Assistance for Individuals including those with special needs

#### **DEST Question Nos. E524\_06 & E525\_06 - Final**

Senator Evans provided in writing.

*Refers to DEST Question No. E523\_06*

#### **Questions:**

Provide a specific breakdown of these funds, including administered funds and departmental costs.

How much is allocated this year? Provide a specific breakdown of these funds according to administered and departmental expenses.

#### **Answer:**

*Murdi Paaki COAG Trial*

One of DEST's roles as lead agency in the Murdi Paaki Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) trial is to leverage support from other sources. DEST has worked closely with State and Local Government, business, philanthropic and other Australian Government agencies, to meet the needs expressed by the Indigenous communities of the Murdi Paaki region.

To date the Australian Government has committed funding of \$5,097,622 over the 2003-2006 period to address the identified needs within the Murdi Paaki region. Of this, the Department of Education, Science, and Training (DEST) has committed \$1,819,429.

In the 2005-2006 financial year, the Australian Government has to date committed funding of \$3,121,032 to the Murdi Paaki Council of Australian Governments (COAG) trial site. Of this amount, DEST has committed funding of \$836,351 to support initiatives in the Murdi Paaki region.

Trial partners anticipate that additional funding will be provided to the Murdi Paaki region in the 2005-2006 financial year in response to community identified priorities.

Departmental costs of the order of \$640,000 per annum are also attributed by DEST in support of the Murdi Paaki trial. This amount supports a small team of four officers located in Dubbo, New South Wales, who work directly with the Indigenous communities of the Murdi Paaki region to support the trial. In addition, the trial also receives support from DEST's National Office through the engagement of DEST's senior executive, and the support of two officers from the Indigenous Education Policy Branch.

See also Question E523\_06.