

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 No. E537_06 – Final

Senator Evans provided in writing.

Question:

Please list the dates of any visits made to the trial site by:

- a. Minister; and
- b. Secretary of the Department.

Please also specify the reason for the visit.

Answer:

Ministerial and Secretaries Visits to Murdi Paaki

At the request of communities of the Murdi Paaki region, the Department of Education, Science, and Training (DEST) has facilitated a number of visits to the Murdi Paaki region by key officials from across the Australian and New South Wales (NSW) state governments, as well as other key non-government officials.

The table below provides an indication of the visits which have been made to the Murdi Paaki Council of Australian Governments (COAG) trial by Ministers, Secretaries, Chief Executive Officers, and other key officials between December 2002 and October 2005.

Date	Officer	Reason for Visit
December 2002	- Dr Peter Shergold, Secretary of DEST.	Meeting with members of the Murdi Paaki Community Working Parties (CWPs).
June 2003	- Dr Wendy Jarvie, A/g Secretary of DEST.	Meeting with members of the Murdi Paaki CWPs.
July 2003	- Dr Jeff Harmer, Secretary of DEST.	Visit to the communities of Collarenebri, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge and Goodooga.
August 2003	- Hon Dr Brendan Nelson Minister for Education, Science, and Training; and - Dr Andrew Refshauge, NSW Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.	Visit to the Murdi Paaki region to discuss regional and local Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs)
September 2003	- Dr Jeff Harmer, Secretary of DEST; and - Ms Jan McClelland, Director General of NSW Department of Education and Training.	Travelled to the region to discuss governance and communication at the community level.
March 2004	- Dr Jeff Harmer, Secretary of DEST; and - Mr Andrew-Cappie Wood, Director General of NSW Department of Education and Training;	Attendance at the first CWP Governance Workshop.

Date	Officer	Reason for Visit
September 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Jeff Harmer, Secretary of DEST; - Mr Andrew-Cappie Wood, Director General of NSW Department of Education and Training; - Dr Wendy Jarvie, Deputy Secretary DEST; - Mr Alan Laughlin, Deputy Director General NSW Department of Education and Training; and - Ms Jody Broun, Director General Department of Aboriginal Affairs. 	Attendance at the second CWP Governance Workshop
December 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Lisa Paul, Secretary of DEST; and - Mr Andrew-Cappie Wood, Director General of NSW Department of Education and Training. 	SRA signings
May 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Ian Watt, Secretary Department of Finance and Administration. 	Visit to the Murdi Paaki region
April 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson Minister for Education, Science, and Training; - Ms Lisa Paul, Secretary of DEST; and - Ms Jody Broun, Director General Department of Aboriginal Affairs. 	Attendance at the third CWP Governance Workshop and tour of the Murdi Paaki region
August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Pat Farmer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training; - Dr Wendy Jarvie, Deputy Secretary of DEST; and - Mr Trevor Fletcher, Deputy Director General NSW Department of Education and Training. 	First Meeting of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA).
October 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hon Milton Orkopoulos, NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; - Dr Wendy Jarvie, Deputy Secretary DEST; - Mr Trevor Fletcher, Deputy Director General NSW Department of Education and Training; - Ms Jody Broun, Director General Department of Aboriginal Affairs; and - Mr Tom Calma, Social Justice Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. 	Attendance at the fourth CWP Governance Workshop.