

## 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. E545\_06

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### Question:

The Australian Education Union published a "Report on a Survey of Schools on the Changes in Commonwealth Indigenous Education Funding" (August 2005). In that report they had responses from 561 schools involved with Indigenous Education, with an enrolment of 17451 Indigenous students. They found that 77% of respondents had ASSPA funding in 2004 totalling \$2,529,325. Up to the time of this survey in July/August 2005, only 9% of those schools in 2005 had received just \$600,431 – a reduction of \$1,928,894 over 2004. What is the Department's response to this report?

#### Answer:

##### *AEU Survey on changes to Indigenous Education Funding*

Payments of Indigenous specific supplementary funding, including for Whole of School Intervention Strategy projects, were delayed pending the government and non-government schools authorities signing Indigenous Education Agreements with the Australian Government. Once Authorities entered into Indigenous Education Agreements, payments on approved Whole of School Intervention Strategy projects were able to commence.

At end August 2005, \$14.6 million or 60% of the 2005 Whole of School Intervention Strategy funding allocation had been approved. At end August 2004, \$19.4 million of the 2004 ASSPA allocation has been paid. The below table provides an update on approvals (as at 9 November) for 2005.

ASSPA payments were generally paid in advance and as a single payment following receipt of applications which closed on 1 May of the funding year. The Whole of School Intervention project funding was approved in response to funding rounds spread throughout 2005. Payments are generally made in instalments.

#### Approval Figures (as at 09 Nov '05)

State	DEST Funding Approved \$	No of WoSI Projects	2005 Allocations \$	% Committed
NSW & ACT	4,273,610.36	307	5,116,000	83.5%
VIC	594,736.75	44	886,000	67.1%
QLD	6,037,192.00	114	6,447,000	93.6%
SA	1,260,421.65	72	1,299,000	97.0%
WA	3,568,456.00	211	4,463,000	80.0%
TAS	614,249.00	22	638,000	96.3%
NT	4,562,850.65	304	5,464,000	83.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,911,516.41</b>	<b>1074</b>	<b>\$24,313,000.00</b>	<b>86.0%</b>