

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. E572_06, E578_06, & E638_06 - Final

Senator Crossin asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 74 and Senator Wong provided in writing.

1. Can you also provide the number of tutors by state and territory and the amount of funding per state and territory that has gone to the tutors?
2. How much funding has been given to providers thus far – could you provide details by State and Territory, list of providers and the amount, including administration costs?
3. How much of the program funds have been spent to date? Please provide a breakdown of what they've been spent on.
4. What will happen to the unspent money?
5. Will the Government give the unspent funds to schools directly to spend on literacy assistance?

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative – funding to providers

1. Table 1 (attached) provides numbers of tutors and tutor payments by State and Territory as at 1 February 2006. As noted, further invoices are expected from Brokers in February 2006.
2. & 3. A total of \$4,256,341.12 has been paid to brokers as at 1 February 2006. Table 2 (attached) provides total tutor and administration payments made to brokers as at 1 February, 2006. The amount consists of establishment payments to brokers; performance-based progress payments to brokers based on the number of student commencements and completions; final payments to brokers; and tutor payments.
4. & 5. The Australian Government is examining options to use unspent money on providing further literacy assistance, including through schools.

Funding Provided to Brokers for payment to Tutors as at 1 February 2006

Notes:

- Amounts are paid upon receipt of a correctly rendered invoice from brokers.
- Final invoices are expected to be continued to be received in February 2006 after closure of pilot.

Table 1

State/ Territory	Broker	Number of Tutors	Payments to tutors (includes invoices)
NSW	Department of Education & Training	1818	\$1,594,548.15
VIC	Progressive Learning	310	\$423,856.04
QLD	Progressive Learning	236	\$362,257.00
WA	Group Training Australia (GTA) WA Inc	142	\$189,348.17
*SA	Department of Education & Children's Services	238	*
TAS N-Govt	Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania	14	\$13,730.14
TAS Govt	Department of Education, Tasmania	53	\$55,632.21
ACT	PG Creative Enterprises	25	\$51,281.47
**NT	Department of Employment, Education & Training	**	\$268,400.00
Totals		2836	\$2,959,323.18

The Department has not finalised all invoice payments as yet. It is anticipated that the total payment amounts will rise in February 2006 as the Department receives and processes final invoices from brokers.

* An invoice for tuition fees for SA has not yet been received.

** The Northern Territory is in early stages of implementation. The initial payment to the Northern Territory broker included an advance payment of tuition fees that will be acquitted against actual tuition.

**Funding Provided to Brokers
Including Administrative Component
as at 1 February 2006**

Notes:

- Amounts are paid upon receipt of a correctly rendered invoice from brokers.
- Final invoices are expected to be continued to be received in February 2006 after closure of pilot.

Table 2

State/ Territory	Broker	***Total Tutor and Administration payments to date
NSW	Department of Education & Training	\$2,003,178.15
VIC	Progressive Learning	\$682,256.00
QLD	Progressive Learning	\$575,658.93
WA	Group Training Australia (GTA) WA Inc	\$296,562.67
*SA	Department of Education & Children's Services	\$58,203.00
TAS N-Govt	Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania	\$59,379.14
TAS Govt	Department of Education, Tasmania	\$108,276.21
ACT	PG Creative Enterprises	\$75,115.11
**NT	Department of Employment, Education & Training	\$397,400.00
Totals		\$4,256,341.21

The Department has not finalised all invoice payments as yet. It is anticipated that the total payment amounts will rise in February 2006 as the Department receives and processes final invoices from brokers.

* An invoice for tuition fees for SA has not yet been received.

** The Northern Territory is in early stages of implementation. The initial payment to the Northern Territory broker included an advance payment of tuition fees that will be acquitted against actual tuition.

*** Tutor and Administration payment amounts consist of the following components:

- Establishment payment;
- Performance-based progress payments based on the number of student commencements and completions;
- Final payment; and
- Tutor payments.