

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. E573_06 & E636_06 – Final

Senator Wong asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 75 and provided in writing.

Question:

1. Could you provide me with the dates on which that advice was requested and provided in relation to Progressive Learning?
2. Was DEST aware of phone tutoring taking place and for how long was DEST aware?
3. How many students received phone tutoring nationally?
4. Was this part of contractual arrangements?
5. If so, what were the details and the conditions under which this could occur?

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative – phone tutoring

1. & 2. In October 2005 the Department contacted all brokers regarding this matter. Progressive Learning replied to DEST on 20 October 2005.

3. Fifty six students received distance (including phone) tutoring, occurring as follows:

New South Wales – nine students receiving tuition by videoconferencing;
Western Australia – six students receiving tuition via the internet;
Queensland – twenty eight students receiving tuition over the telephone; and
Victoria – thirteen students receiving tuition over the telephone.

4. Contract requirements are to provide individual one-to-one tuition assistance for eligible students, outside of school hours. Phone and virtual tutoring meet these requirements.

5. All tuition under the pilot Initiative must meet the overall objectives of the programme which require the following: eligible parents can access individual reading tuition assistance for their children; and there is a verifiable improvement in the reading skills of the children who receive tuition under the pilot.