

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E576_06 - Final

Senator Wong asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 79.

Question:

Could you indicate to me what post delivery evaluation of the work comprising the various consultancies has been done and provide copies of same?

Answer:

Impetus Consulting Pty Ltd consultancies – post-delivery evaluations

The Department contracted Impetus Consultants to support the *Discovering Democracy* programme. Dr Donnelly's principal role was to provide a critique of the draft *Discovering Democracy* curriculum resources as they were being developed. Such a critique was a further quality assurance mechanism for the programme.

The *Discovering Democracy* programme was evaluated twice – in 1999 and again in 2003. Both evaluations are available on the *Discovering Democracy* website:

- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/archives/evaluation_discovering_democracy.htm (1999), and
- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/discovering_democracy_programme_2000_2003.htm

Both evaluations commented favourably on the *Discovering Democracy* resources. The 2003 evaluation, for example, found that teachers consistently praised the resources and highlighted their enduring nature and suitability for student learning.

The Department assesses drafts of reports or progress reports to ensure they are consistent with contractual requirements. In the case of the *National Mapping of Gender Specific and Gender Related Curricula* and *Benchmarking Australian Primary School Curricula* reports, the Department evaluated the work as it was being delivered and determined that the work warranted final payments. It then advised the Minister on the release of the reports. The *National Mapping of Gender Specific and Gender Related Curricula* report was published on the DEST website on 3 August 2004 and the *Benchmarking Australian Primary School Curricula* report was published on 28 September 2005.

Both reports are available on the DEST website:

- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/national_mapping_gender_curricula.htm, and
- http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/benchmarking_curricula.htm