

## 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. E597\_06**

Senator Nettle provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

How much money does the federal Government allocate for morning breakfasts in schools?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Federal Government funding of breakfasts in schools*

Healthy breakfasts in schools have been funded under the \$15 million *Healthy School Communities Programme* which is one component of the *Building a Healthy Active Australia* initiative aimed at tackling childhood obesity. The *Healthy School Communities Programme* is managed by the Department of Health and Ageing. Under the *Healthy School Communities Programme*, community organisations such as parents associations, school auxiliaries, canteen groups and other groups linked with school communities, have been invited to apply for a one-off grant of up to \$1,500 to fund activities that promote healthy eating in the school environment. As at mid November 2005, around 24% of eligible schools have been approved to host healthy eating breakfast activities.

The Department of Family and Community Services, through its Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2009, has funded some community-run school based projects which have included a breakfast club as an essential component of a project that otherwise meets the Local Answers criteria, but is not the sole focus of the project. These projects have, as a core function, the building of skills and capacity within the community and breakfast clubs are used to facilitate this process. On 7 April 2004, the Prime Minister announced the renewal of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. A key part of the Strategy is the Local Answers initiative. Local Answers helps strengthen disadvantaged families and communities by funding local, small scale, time-limited projects that help build skills and capacity to resolve issues and create opportunities. Further information can be found at: [www.facs.gov.au/sfcs](http://www.facs.gov.au/sfcs).

In 2005, under the Australian Government's Parent School Partnerships Initiative, an Indigenous-specific programme, 89 school and community projects received funding for nutrition projects where strategies, such as providing breakfast and/or lunch for Indigenous students or involving parents and community members in the preparation of meals, are used to improve broader educational outcomes, particularly school attendance.

Nutrition projects funded under this programme must demonstrate support, including a financial commitment, from parents and/or communities.

The programme guidelines for the Parent School Partnerships Initiative encourages applicants to consult with other relevant agencies, in the development of applications for funding to achieve a coordinated approach to delivering programmes to Indigenous communities. In the case of the provision of breakfasts in schools, the intent of the Parent School Partnerships Initiative guidelines is to harness mainstream health and community

programmes and services that support school breakfast and nutrition programmes to achieve a longer-term solution to barriers to Indigenous education.