

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E629_06, E630_06 & E631_06 – Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

1. As part of the tender process, was DEST provided with information on how many hours of tutoring each tenderer would provide as part of the '\$700 voucher'? Please provide this.
2. How many hours is each successful tenderer currently providing in tutoring to students?
3. Please provide the latest figures on the hourly rate paid to the tutor. Please separate superannuation, workers compensation and other related payments from the hourly rate and provide these.
4. Please also provide the costings breakdown of the pilot voucher program supplied to DEST by each of the brokers.
5. Do brokers deduct superannuation, workers compensation and related employment costs from the \$700?
6. What are these costs in each state and territory?
7. Did DEST set a percentage of the \$700 that could be used for these costs? What was it?

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative

1. No. Once the successful tenderers were notified, the contract negotiations included the number of hours of tuition.
2. The hours of tuition students received under the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative varied across States and Territories.
3. The tutor hourly rate of pay varied between States and Territories. The Tutorial Voucher Initiative Guidelines required that tutor rates of pay should be consistent with industrial awards or market rates for the provision of teaching and tuition services in each State and Territory.

On-costs

In some States and the ACT, it is not possible to provide the amount of these costs. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, the employment related on-costs included payroll tax. In New South Wales, the total on-costs were \$14.09 per hour. In Victoria and Queensland, the on-costs were an average of \$16 per hour. In South Australia, the on-costs were \$7.33 per hour.

4. Brokers were not required to submit a costing breakdown for the pilot Initiative.
5. The \$700 voucher amount must be used for the cost of providing tuition. The cost of tuition includes employment related on-costs such as State-based payroll tax. The employment related on-costs do not include costs associated with administering the pilot Initiative.

6. See answer to question 3.
7. See answer to question 6.