

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. E639_06 - Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

During the 2 November hearings, DEST said 19,079 students were eligible to receive a tutorial voucher (p.74). However, the Minister's figures in his various press releases come up to around 24,200.

- Why has this figure been revised down by over 5,000 students?

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative

The pilot Initiative was introduced to assist the parents/caregivers of children who were below the Year 3 national reading benchmark in 2003. The estimated number of eligible students included in the Minister's press releases was based on 2001 Year 3 student benchmark data, which was the most recent publicly available data when the pilot Tutorial Voucher Initiative commenced.

As the 2003 Year 3 benchmark data is now available, the Department is now using this more accurate estimate.