

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training

DEST Question No. E813_06 - Final

Senator Crossin asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 107.

Question:

In the context of discussion about the Joint Indigenous Funding Pool, to be established under the 2005-08 Commonwealth-State Agreement for Skilling Australia's Workforce:

- (a) "In total, how much of the Skilling Australia's Workforce funds are actually earmarked for Indigenous specific projects".
- (b) "Would you know what percentage of the total \$10.1 billion allocated to Skilling Australia's Workforce is for Indigenous specific projects?"

Answer:

Commonwealth-State Agreement for Skilling Australia's Workforce

The Australian Government announced in its May 2005 budget that it will be providing \$10.1 billion over the next four years from 2005-2006 for vocational and technical education.

Within this funding the Australian Government is providing the States and Territories nearly \$5 billion to support their training systems over 2005-08 under the Commonwealth-State Agreement for Skilling Australia's Workforce. This offer includes \$10.9 million over the life of the Agreement to establish the Joint Indigenous Funding Pool. State and Territory jurisdictions will be required to match these funds, thus increasing the funding pool up to \$23.3 million (including estimated indexation) over 2006-08. Eligible providers would compete for the joint funding pool on the basis of outcomes they are achieving for Indigenous students.

The Independent Indigenous Vocational and Technical Education (IIVTE) providers (the Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD), Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College, Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern and Tauondi Incorporated) who received Transitional Project Assistance funding in 2005 are expected to compete in any competitive JIFP process conducted within their State or Territory. They will be guaranteed to receive at least 80% of their 2005 Transitional Project Assistance funding in 2006, 60% in 2007, 40% in 2008 and 20% in 2009. If required, this will be funded from sources outside of the Commonwealth-State Agreement for Skilling Australia's Workforce. The funding will support the capacity building of the four IIVETS during the period if they are not successful in their State or Territory competitive JIFP process.

State and Territory jurisdictions are also required to create additional training places in regional and remote locations for Indigenous Australians and are also required to increase participation of indigenous Australians at higher qualification levels, specifically at Certificate III and above. These specific Indigenous initiatives are funded from the mainstream Agreement funding.

Under the Agreement, the Australian Government also provides funding assistance for the establishment or expansion of training facilities under the Skill Centre Programme. This programme has three sub components: Industry Based Skill Centres; Skill Centres for School Students and VET Infrastructure for Indigenous People (VIIP).

The specific objective of the VIIP Programme is to provide capital funding to assist in, and enhance the delivery of, training to Indigenous people consistent with the Programme Guidelines and the objectives of *Partners in a Learning Culture*. The programme is a nationally competitive process with a current annual allocation of \$4 million.