

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2.4
Output Group: Funding for Higher Education

DEST Question No. E656_07

Senator Crossin provided this question in writing on 1 November 2006.

Question:

In her speech to this second conference, the Minister said in her Conference speech that the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association was to get \$60,000 to continue the Indigenous Adolescents in Medicine Program. Can you tell me how many Indigenous adolescents took part in the 2 year pilot for this program? Where did the program operate? How was the pilot funded? What evaluation was done before deciding to continue the program?

Answer:

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

The Indigenous Adolescents in Medicine programme was a pilot, launched in 2002 for two years. Seven students took part for varying lengths of time from Woree High, Trinity Bay High, Cairns High and Bentley Park College in Cairns, Queensland. Two students continued on the programme for the full two years. Of the two completing students, one has applied to medical school at James Cook University and the other left for family reasons.

Of the remaining five students, one family relocated, one decided to study music, one decided not to pursue health sciences and two discontinued for personal reasons. The scope of barriers to education and pressures on Indigenous youth is well documented.

An evaluation was conducted in 2005. The evaluation determined that in general the program was successful in assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to learn more about and consider a career in health and medicine.