

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1.0
Output Group: 1.4 -

DEST Question No. E703_07

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Halls Creek Engaging Families trial and evaluation report

Question: In relation to the Halls Creek *Engaging Families* trial:

- (a) Have DEST had time to read and analyse this Evaluation Report released in September?
- (b) Has it shown them some of the realities of Indigenous community life and the problems faced by people? Would you accept that in fact similar problems and issues affect many Indigenous communities?
- (c) Have DEST had many meetings with other government departments or stakeholders involved with the Halls Creek community to discuss the report or consider any of the recommendations?
- (d) What role in fact does DEST have in this trial and any follow up? Which was the lead agency?
- (e) Did Halls Creek have an Indigenous Parent Committee prior to the abolition of ASSPA committees? Does it have a Parent Committee of any kind now under the PSPI? How many Indigenous parents are on it? (over 94% of the kids are Indigenous)
- (f) What project funding has Halls Creek School in fact had under PSPI for both 2005 and 2006?
- (g) How did this compare to funding under the previous ASSPA scheme in 2004?
- (h) Were any of their application rejected and if so which ones and why?
- (i) How did Halls Creek compare in PSPI funding with other schools in the area that mentioned in the Evaluation Report (Page 8 para 5) as having above average attendance? (schools like Dawul, Kalumburu and Oombulgurri). What projects got funded in these schools?
- (j) Does Halls Creek receive any Commonwealth funding for programs such as after hours activities?
- (k) Have DEST staff visited these other communities which have good attendance to see if they have any of the similar socio-economic problems?

Answer:

Halls Creek Engaging Families trial and evaluation report

- (a) and (b) Yes.
- (c) The Department has affirmed its commitment to continue to work in collaboration with DEWR and other agencies.
- (d) DEWR was the lead agency for this trial. DEST participated in an inter-agency working group and is liaising with the Western Australian education department and Queensland's Centre for Aboriginal Independence and Enterprise.
- (e) Halls Creek District High School and Warlawurru Catholic School had ASSPA committees. Parent Committees were formed at both schools when they applied for Whole of School Intervention (WoSI) funding through the Parents and Schools Partnership Initiative (PSPI). The Halls Creek District High School advised that 100 parent and community members were involved in the implementation of its PSPI project.
- (f) \$140,000 in PSPI funding was approved for the Halls Creek District High School in Round 5 of 2005 running from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007.
- (g) Halls Creek District High School received \$63,060 in ASSPA funding in 2004.
- (h) No.
- (i) PSPI funding approved to date for schools in the East Kimberley District is available online. www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/
- (j) Yes.
- (k) Yes.