

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No.EW0688_12

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Refer to DEEWR Questions No EW0810_12 and EW0811_12”.

Question

Indigenous education and the national curriculum

With regards to these three teacher training projects: \$800 000 project for the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership in partnership with the Committee of University Deans to improve pre-service training for teachers. • \$1 million project to progress in-service training. • \$8 million project being led by Professor Peter Buckskin at the University of South Australia to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators entering the workforce (Action 33 of the plan). a. Can the department provide more detail on these three projects? b. What is the timeframe for the design and implementation for each project? c. What opportunities exist for Stolen Generations bodies to be involved and consulted on content?

Answer

The three projects referred to by Senator Siewert are in fact two projects. The first is the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education: Improving Teaching Project*, which includes both pre-service and in-service teaching training components and is being undertaken by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL). The second project is the *More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative* which is being led by the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research at the University of South Australia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education: Improving Teaching Project

The Australian Government is providing \$1.8 million to the AITSL over the 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years to support this project. The key priority is to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan by ensuring that all teaching courses and programs include material that gives teachers the opportunity to be adequately prepared to teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, culture, history and perspectives in accordance with the National Professional Standards for Teachers.

The project commenced in June 2011 and will be completed by 30 June 2012. It will include opportunities for wide consultation with key stakeholders and AITSL will ensure that this includes relevant Stolen Generation bodies.

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative

On 7 July 2011 Minister Garrett announced \$7.5 million to fund the *More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative* to be implemented from 2012 to 2015 (inclusive). The national program, managed by the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research at the University of South Australia, is aimed at addressing the low numbers and retention rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers in Australian schools.

The project is led by Professor Peter Buckskin, Director of the College, with Emeritus Professor Paul Hughes and Dr Kaye Price. The project team has established a reference group, and invited representatives from relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and each jurisdiction to contribute to the scoping paper.