

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

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

Agency - Australia Institute for Teaching & School Leadership

DEEWR Question No. EW0810_12

Senator Siewert asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 37

Refer to DEEWR Question Nos EW0811_12 and EW0688_12.

Question

AITSL- three projects

Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I know about the three projects. There is the one for the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, in partnership with the committee of university deans, to improve preservice training. There is another project, I understand, on in-service training and there is another one which is to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators. So I know about the projects; what I am after is some detail around the three projects. You might want to take that on notice, but also what is the timetable for each project and what involvement has there been or will there be with consulting the stolen generation bodies that are obviously very interested in these issues? Ms Davy: They are contracts which we have provided to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, as you indicated, so it would be appropriate for them to respond to those questions so we would need to take that on notice and ask for those details from AITSL.

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 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.