

**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.EW0811\_12**

**Senator Siewert asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 37**

*Refer to DEEWR Question Nos EW0810\_12 and EW0688\_12.*

**Question**

**AITSL 3 projects**

Senator SIEWERT: ... Have you provided any guidance to them about some of the key things that you want to ensure are key parts of those projects? Ms Davy: There will be in our funding agreements and scope of services some specifics about that. I have not got those details with me but I am happy to take it on notice.

**Answer**

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education: Improving Teaching project.*

The Australian Government is providing \$1.8 million to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) over the 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years to support the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education: Improving Teaching* project. The funding agreement between the Australian Government and AITSL specifies that 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 giving 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.

*More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative*

Minister Garrett announced \$7.5 million to fund the *More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative* on 7 July 2011. 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 key priorities for the project are to:

- identify the factors that contribute to the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people entering and remaining in teaching positions
- identify the work currently being undertaken to attract and retain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers, and identify the gaps in that current work
- determine future priority initiatives that would help to deliver against the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Educator Workforce Strategy objectives in relation to teachers.