



Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill 2005

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Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill 2005

Date Introduced: 25 May 2005

House: House of Representatives

Portfolio: Education, Science and Training

Commencement: Royal Assent

Purpose

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* ('the Act') to:

- Appropriate additional funding for the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS)
- Transfer funding for independent vocational education and training providers to appropriations under the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005.

Background

Until 2000, Commonwealth assistance to Indigenous education was provided through the *Indigenous Education (Supplementary Assistance) Act 1989*. Although the *Indigenous Education (Supplementary Assistance) Act 1989* was not repealed, the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* now provides the funding and implements the Government's policy. The Act provides appropriations for the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme (IESIP) to assist Indigenous students in government and non-government schools, including small independent Indigenous schools. Funding may go to all education sectors from pre-school to tertiary. It includes 'Away From Base' funding for ABSTUDY students attending compulsory course activities and funding for special projects. Funding is provided through agreements made with education providers.

Main Provisions

The Bill will decrease the appropriation under **section 14A** of the Act by a net \$3.7 million over 2006 to 2008. The Bill transfers \$10.9 m to be spent under the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005.¹ The transfer will come from funds currently provided to four independent vocational education and training providers: the Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD), Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College, Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern and Tauondi Incorporated.

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The four providers will now be required to compete for funding in a joint funding pool under a proposed new Commonwealth State funding agreement provided through the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005.²

The Bill also includes new spending of \$7.2 m which is fully funded from savings in other areas of the Department of Education, Science and Training. The new spending will fund a measure announced in the 2005 budget: the 'Remote Indigenous Students – tutorial support for students leaving their communities', which will cost \$8.7 million over the four years to 2008-09, or \$7.2 m to 2008.³

The net effect of the new spending and the transfer to the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005 is a reduction of \$3.7m.

The 'Remote Indigenous Students – tutorial support for students leaving their communities' initiative will provide tutorial support for mainly secondary Indigenous students who move from their remote communities to undertake schooling. These 2,040 students will receive up to four hours tuition per week in their first year away from their remote communities. It complements two initiatives – the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme and the Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme – funded in the Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill 2004.⁴ This Bill continues the Government's emphasis on providing a greater weighting of resources towards Indigenous students in remote areas who the Government regards to be of greatest disadvantage.

Endnotes

- 1 [Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005, Bills Digest no.160, 2004–05](#)
- 2 This proposal will follow the abolition of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and the associated funding arrangements which were provided for under the ANTA Agreement. The abolition of ANTA is covered by the Skilling Australia's Workforce (Repeal and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2005.
- 3 Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone, 'Indigenous Budget Measure 2: Remote Indigenous Students – tutorial support for students leaving their communities' Fact Sheet Budget 2005; also Budget Paper No.2, Table 5 'Addressing Indigenous Needs', Budget Papers 2005.
- 4 [Indigenous Education \(Targeted Assistance\) Amendment Bill 2004 Bills Digest no. 57, 2004–05.](#)

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