

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance to individuals including those with special needs.

DEST Question No. E659_05

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

What exactly was done to enable DEST staff to visit schools and assist Indigenous parents with the new written submissions for funding under the new scheme?

Answer:

Consultations

In November and December 2004, DEST again wrote to every school in Australia with Indigenous enrolments and to every ASSPA Committee Chairperson, advising of the new process for applying for funds and providing them with information about the guidelines and application forms.

Commencing in November 2004, DEST Education Officers held regional and local consultation meetings and forums with schools, Indigenous parents and communities to inform communities and schools about the application process for funding under the Whole of School Intervention Strategy. Some of these meetings have involved local Indigenous Coordination Centre staff and District Education Department staff.

The consultation meetings and forums have focussed on creating a shared understanding of the Parent School Partnerships Initiative, in particular. The meetings asked schools and Indigenous parents and communities to work together to examine what the barriers to educational success for local Indigenous students are and to work on the development of strategies to address those barriers.

DEST Network staff are providing feedback to applicants on their concept plans and applications for funding that were received in Round One. Staff continue to meet with schools and communities about the programme and will provide feedback to applicants in writing and orally throughout the funding rounds in 2005.