

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.1 – Funding for Schools

DEST Question No. E049_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Can the department please provide the Committee with copies of any brochures or other publicity material produced by the Department or on behalf of the Minister's office for distribution to school and local communities at, or in the lead-up to, the inauguration of new school flagpoles subsidised under the Commonwealth's flagpoles for schools program?

Answer:

Flagpoles

There have been no brochures or publicity material produced by the Department or on behalf of the Minister's office for distribution to schools and local communities in relation to this initiative.

Information about the initiative is available from the Department's website at www.dest.gov.au by typing 'flagpoles' into the search box on the home page.

On 25 January 2005 Dr Nelson issued a media release announcing that up to \$1500 would be available to individual schools to either purchase or repair a flagpole. A copy of the media release is attached.

Media Release

HELPING SCHOOLS TO FLY THE FLAG WITH \$1500 GRANT

25 January 2005 MIN 1041/05

To ensure every Australian school has a flagpole, the Australian Government will make available up to \$1500 for individual schools to either purchase or repair a flagpole.

Some schools do not have a flagpole while others have an existing flagpole in disrepair.

Our flag reflects who we are, where we have come from and the historical circumstances and values of those who have passed on an economic and social legacy to our generation.

By taking pride in the flag and its presentation, schools can help support parents' expectations that our schools will foster values such as tolerance, trustworthiness, mutual respect, courage, compassion, courtesy and doing one's best.

Education is as much about building character as it is transferring skills, knowledge and the thirst for learning

The Howard Government considers the flying of the Australian flag an important part of promoting values education in Australian schools and has made it a condition of receiving funding which over the next four years will see a record \$33 billion provided by the Government to support all schools.

Of this important commitment to schooling, almost \$35 million will be allocated to support values education and civics and citizenship education programmes in Australian schools over the next four years.

Schools seeking funding under this initiative should obtain an application form and Guidelines from the Department of Education, Science and Training's website; <http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/flagpoles> or you can email the Department at flagpoles@dest.gov.au.

A "Values for Australian Schooling" poster is at the following link: http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/nelson/9_point_values_with_flag_only.pdf

Media Contacts:

Dr Nelson's Office: Yaron Finkelstein 0414 927 663

Dept of Education, Science & Training: Tony Mithen 02 6240 7174