

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.2 – Assistance for individuals including those with special needs

#### **DEST Question No. E083\_06**

Senator Carr asked on 2 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 8.

#### **Question:**

- (a) When was Progressive Learning established?
- (b) Have they been working in Queensland for 14 years?
- (c) Does that mean they were registered 14 years ago? How do you know they have been in operation for 14 years?
- (d) There are obviously two issues here. Given that they have a \$4 million contract in Queensland, obviously it is of some interest to know what work they have done in Queensland.

#### **Answer:**

##### *Tutorial Voucher Initiative in Queensland*

- (a) Following an open tender process to select brokers to administer the Tutorial Voucher Initiative in all states and territories, DEST contracted the successful tenderer in Queensland, NSDC Pty Ltd trading as Progressive Learning. The name Progressive Learning has been used for all administrative and promotional purposes associated with the Tutorial Voucher Initiative. The Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) National Names Index shows that Progressive Learning was registered as a company on 14 January 2005. The Australian Government has no contractual relationship with a company known as Progressive Learning Pty Ltd to deliver the TVI.
- (b) NSDC (North Shore Development Centre) started in New South Wales in 1991, and we are informed they have been operating in Queensland since 1997-1998.
- (c) NSDC Pty Ltd registered as an Australian Proprietary Company in 1996, and had been in operation prior to that since 1991. This information was provided in the tender application. Company registration information has been confirmed through the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) National Names Index.
- (d) NSDC Pty Ltd currently operates over 45 tutorial centres across Australia and New Zealand, with seven in Queensland. The tutorial centres provide assistance in several academic subjects as well as general literacy and numeracy skills.