

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

DEST Question No. E102_06

Senator Allison provided in writing.

Question:

What work are you currently doing on sex education programs?

- a. Have you had any responses from the states about your requests for information?
- b. Are there any plans to develop nationally consistent material on sex education?
- c. Given the importance of sex education in preventing sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, will the government commit to ensuring that all schools include sex education in their curriculum?

Answer:

Current work on sex education programmes

Dr Nelson wrote to State and Territory Ministers and the Catholic and Independent education jurisdictions seeking information on the sex education programmes in their jurisdictions.

He was interested to ascertain whether education authorities and schools are working with their school communities to ensure that the sex education they provide is the most appropriate.

- (a) Replies have now been received from all jurisdictions.
- (b) There are no plans to develop nationally consistent material on sex education.
- (c) State and Territory government and non-government education authorities are responsible for determining the curriculum and programmes used in schools for sex education.