

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. E105_06

Senator Allison provided in writing.

Question:

- a. How many Indigenous students have received a tutorial voucher?
- b. How many Indigenous students failed to pass the Year 3 national reading benchmark? Considering the results released by DEST yesterday, Indigenous literacy and numeracy levels are far below that of other Australians, shouldn't all of those Indigenous students who students failed to pass the Year 3 national reading benchmark receive a tutorial voucher?

Answer:

Tutorial Voucher Initiative

- a. While preliminary recording of student data has commenced under the Tutorial Voucher Initiative, this is an ongoing process. DEST does not expect student participation figures to be available until later this year.
- b. The latest published data indicates that an estimated 2,290 Indigenous students across Australia did not achieve the Year 3 reading benchmark in 2002. This estimate was constructed using data from the ABS Schools publication 2002 (Cat No 4221.0) and MCEETYA's 2002 National Report on Schooling in Australia Preliminary Paper.

The Tutorial Voucher Initiative was introduced by the Australian Government as a pilot programme to assist all parents/caregivers of children who were below the Year 3 national reading benchmark in 2003. This includes all eligible parents/caregivers of Indigenous students.