

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. E113_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to DEST Question No E436_05

Question:

In October 2003, the Minister received the final report of the Review of Teaching and Teacher Education, *Australia's Teachers: Australia's Future – Advancing Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics*, from the chair of the Review Professor Kwong Lee Dow AM.

Has the Government responded to this report?

If not, why has there not been a response and when will one be produced?

What was the cost of the inquiry?

Answer:

Government Response to the report of the Review of Teaching and Teacher Education, Australia's Teachers: Australia's Future – Advancing Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics

The Australian Government has responded to the Review with a range of measures:

- The seven year \$38.8 million Boosting Innovation in Technology, Science and Mathematics Teaching (BISTMT) Programme and its main component, the \$33.7 million Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM) Project which aims to enhance science, technology and mathematics education and promote innovation in school. The ASISTM Project will fund an estimated 500 school cluster initiatives. The school cluster initiatives will bring schools together with industry, science organisations, universities, teacher professional organisations and others to explore ways to encourage a culture of innovation in schools and bring about real and lasting improvements in the ways in which science, mathematics and technology are taught in schools. Critical friends - suitably skilled and experienced educational experts - will also be engaged to provide guidance and quality assurance for all ASISTM projects.
- Under the ASISTM Project, an estimated 1,300 Teacher Associates – including tertiary students, researchers, other specialists in science, technology and mathematics - will be engaged, as part of the school cluster initiatives, to provide project support, excite students interest in these subjects and act as role models to improve student outcomes in these subject areas.
- A total of \$1.53 million over seven years to 2010-11 has also been allocated under the BISTMT Programme for data collection and research to support teacher workforce planning and help advance professional practice in schools.

- The National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership (NIQTSL) has been established under interim arrangements to support and advance the effectiveness and standing of the teaching profession in Australia, driving innovation and excellence in schools and providing intellectual leadership for the profession. The NIQTSL is expected to be established as a legal entity by the end of 2005. The Institute has four core functions, encompassing professional standards and accreditation, professional learning and course accreditation, research, and communication and promotion of the profession. The Australian Government has provided \$10 million towards the Institute's establishment and operation and an additional \$20 million in the 2005-06 Budget for its operation over the next four years. The Institute Board has majority teacher and principal representatives.
- Under the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004* strengthened principal and school governing body autonomy is being sought in relation to education programs, staffing, budget and other aspects of the school's operation within a supportive network of broad systemic policies. The Act also requires that staff appointments in each government school be made with the approval of the principal, or the governing body of the school.
- The identification of teaching as a higher education national priority area has been made and a cap on student contribution amounts in that national priority area has been set to ensure that the maximum amount a student must pay from 2005 is the equivalent of the 2004 Higher Education Scheme (HECS) levels.
- An allocation of new higher education places to start in 2005 has been made, including around 1,700 teaching places throughout the sector, which will grow to around 4,700 places by 2008. In addition, the Government has allocated 150 teaching places to private higher education providers.
- The provision to universities of additional funding for teaching through the education cluster funding will assist with the costs associated with the practical component of the teacher education course. An estimated \$120 million (in 2005 dollars) will be provided over 2005-08 for the teaching practicum.

Action in response to most of the Review's recommendations is variously the responsibility of universities, State/Territory governments, government and non-government education authorities, and other key stakeholders as well as the Australian Government.

Cost of the Review of Teaching and Teacher Education

The cost of the Review of Teaching and Teacher Education, excluding associated departmental costs, was \$887,385.