

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1

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

#### **DEST Question No. E260\_06**

Senator Carr and Senator Crossin asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 113.

#### **Question:**

Do Indigenous students have to fail benchmark tests to get ITAS funding?

So you are unable to tell us what the impact would be on the ITAS funding if parents chose to not have their children sit that test. Is that right? Are you telling us to ask that of the Indigenous area?

#### **Answer:**

##### *In-Class Tuition*

Indigenous students do not have to fail a national literacy or numeracy benchmark test to receive ITAS tutor support.

The quantum of ITAS In-Class Tuition (ICT) available to education providers is determined based on the number of Indigenous students who do not meet one or more of the national literacy or numeracy benchmarks in Years 3, 5 and 7, including exempted Indigenous students, but excluding those in State capital city and Canberra schools with less than 20 Indigenous enrolments.

Education providers must use ITAS ICT funding to first target tutorial assistance to those Indigenous students in Years 4, 6 and 8 who did not meet the minimum literacy or numeracy benchmark tests in the previous year. Education providers have flexibility to provide in-class tuition to other Indigenous students between Years 1 to 9 who are at risk of not meeting the relevant literacy or numeracy curriculum outcome levels for their age. Indigenous secondary school students studying Year 10, 11 and 12 may access tutoring through the ITAS Year 10, 11 and 12 programme.

Where parents/caregivers choose not to have their children sit the test, education providers will not attract ITAS ICT funding in respect of those children, unless formally exempted from taking the test.