

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW739_09

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Early Childhood Education

Are these bilingual programs incorporating local language groups?

Answer

State and Territory Governments are responsible for ensuring the delivery of preschool, including guiding or monitoring the cultural appropriateness of the preschool programs. Whether early childhood programs delivered to Indigenous children in the NT are bilingual is a decision for the NT government.

Under the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) several crèches are being provided in prescribed communities. Each crèche will be staffed by members of the local Indigenous community. The Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU) is providing training to these staff members and where necessary this training is translated into the local Indigenous language.

In the crèches local Indigenous child care workers deliver early learning programs in their local language. Where more than one language group is represented in the community, staff members use both languages in the crèche.