

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.1 – Funding for Schools

#### **DEST Question No. E621\_06**

#### **Question:**

- Who are the representatives on each of the Block Grant Authorities allocating funding to non-government schools?
- What was DEST's involvement in the BGAs' selection process?
- Did a DEST representative participate in the selection process?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Investing in Our Schools - Block Grant Authorities*

Block Grant Authorities are bodies corporate as determined by the Minister under the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004* (the Act). Block Grant Authorities have their own governance arrangements whereby they constitute their committees. The constitution of Block Government Authorities may vary, but all have appropriate levels of expertise, such as people with educational, architectural, financial and construction skills, while also including relevant stakeholders thereby ensuring transparency in decision making.

Block Grant Authorities receive submissions, and assess and recommend projects for approval by the Minister in accordance with the Act and the *Australian Government Programmes for Schools quadrennial Administrative Guidelines 2005 to 2008* (the Guidelines). DEST receives the schedules of projects from Block Grant Authorities and reviews the projects based on the Act and the Guidelines. DEST advises the Minister who approves projects.