

Question No: 53

Question: Savings From ERC Recommendations

Date: 13/08/91

Member: Mr BELL

To: MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Did the Estimates Review Committee announce that a figure of \$350 000 would be saved from 'maximising Commonwealth funding'; if so -

- (a) what makes up this figure;
- (b) what duplication has been identified;
- (c) what programs require committees and travel; and
- (d) what proposals have been put to the Commonwealth government regarding this matter and what has the response been.

2. Did the Estimates Review Committee announce that a figure of \$2m would be targeted for savings over the next 2 financial years as a result of full cost recovery for non-compulsory recreation and general enrichment courses and the implementation of fees and charges for adults enrolled in the school system; if so -

- (a) how was the \$2m figure estimated; and
- (b) what level will charges be for these courses.

3. Did the implementation of the above targeted saving documentation state 'A phased fixed percentage of college budgets will commence in the calendar year 1992'.

4. Is it the government's intention to reduce college budgets equivalent to a commensurate figure of the anticipated revenues gained by the increase in fees; if so, how will this reduction be estimated.

5. Will the department be able to calculate the effect of the possibility that increased fees will reduce student numbers; if so, how will this be done.

6. When will fees be increased given that full cost recovery is documented to 'commence immediately'.

7. Has the department examined what the effect will be on courses offered by the Batchelor College if a further cut of \$1million to that institution is put into effect.

8. What negotiations have taken place with the Commonwealth regarding increasing their share of funding for higher education courses in the Northern Territory.

9. What has been the Commonwealth's response to date.

10. What courses conducted at Batchelor College are deemed as higher education courses by the Northern Territory Government.

ANSWER

1. Yes.

(a) A levy of 8.1% was applied to all Commonwealth Specific Purpose Programs

(excluding AEP, TAFE and Capital).

(b) In the areas of administration and committee structures.

(c) Disadvantaged Government Schools Program;
Disadvantaged Non-Government Schools Program;
Country Areas Program (joint government and non-government);
Special Education Program (joint government and non-government);
Special Education Schools Support Program (government); and
Literacy and Learning Program (joint government and non-government).

(d) The amalgamation of Specific Purpose Programs in the Northern Territory which are fully supported by the Commonwealth government.

2. Yes.

(a) After a review of the operation of commercial activities in colleges.

(b) Courses will be competitive in cost with marketplace courses.

3. Yes.

4. No.

5. No.

6. All increases were in place at the start of the 1992 year.

7. Yes.

8. The Commonwealth is generally sympathetic and has offered interim assistance to Batchelor College to investigate alternate delivery modes which will reduce costs per Effective Full Time Student Unit (EFTSU), particularly for remote area programs.

9. The Commonwealth has indicated that it will look closely at Batchelor with a view to funding changes in the triennium beginning in 1994.

10. Associate Diploma in Teaching;
Diploma in Teaching;
Associate Diploma in Education (Adult);
Diploma in Education (Adult); and
Associate Diploma in Applied Science (Land, Parks and Wildlife).