

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Employment, Education and Training

School Drug Education Positions

Minister during the mid nineties the Northern Territory Government funded three education positions in the Department of Education specifically for the development and facilitation of drug education programs in the NT. Now there is only one position and that position is funded by the Federal Government.

1. Given the accepted need to prevent drug use uptake through early strategies like education, and government dismantling of the DARE program: what are you doing to help teachers incorporate sound drug education in their programs?

ANSWER

The Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) is currently providing intensive professional learning for teachers in all schools across the Northern Territory to ensure each school has in place and is implementing a current school drug education policy. This initiative is underpinned by the provision of the recommended Western Australian drug education support materials and the Northern Territory developed Indigenous Drug Education Support Materials (IDESMs) to schools. These resources have been linked to outcomes in the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework (NTCF) to enable teachers to develop appropriate units of work that meet NT Learning Outcomes. These resources are to be housed on Explore NT and will be electronically available to all teachers.

Australian Government funding, through the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) funds the current drug education position based within Health Promoting Schools NT at DEET Curriculum Services. That officer is responsible for supporting the professional learning of teachers and School Based Police Officers to ensure that they have the skills to deliver their relevant drug education programs. The Western Australian program and the IDESMs are supported by the DEST drug education resources provided through the Resilience Education and Drug Information (REDI) initiative, Cannabis and Consequences and Rethinking Drinking You're in Control. The 7 Core Themes is a new drug education resource developed by the Drug Education Officer for School Based Police Officers to deliver. This course is designed to value add to the units of work that teachers develop, implement and assess linking to appropriate outcomes in the NTCF. Funding of \$531 911 will be received during the 2004-05 to 2007-08 quadrennium to cover the delivery of professional learning to teachers and fund the position of the Drug Education Officer.

The NT has received additional funds through the DEST Peer Forums funding initiative. A total of \$519 800 will be received during the 2005-05 to 2007-08 quadrennium to ensure that teachers and facilitators are skilled to assist students in this initiative. All schools will receive a once off grant of \$600 during this period. The Drug Education Officer assists schools in identifying the forum they wish to run and train teachers or facilitators in schools to assist in this initiative. The forums must be organised and carried out by the students and are aimed at informing their peers and wider community on drug related issues.

The National School Drug Education Strategy: Indigenous Rural and Remote Initiative is providing \$100 000 from 2004-05 to 2007-08. Under this initiative schools, which fulfil the requirements, are invited to apply for a grant that builds upon an existing DEST or DEET drug education related initiative. The Drug Education Officer will call for grant submissions, and assist schools in implementing their initiative made possible through the grant. These submissions will be linked to NTCF outcomes to demonstrate student learning which can be measured by collecting evidence through student work samples.