

Estimates Committee 2003
Questions Taken On Notice

(01/10/2002 to 01/10/2004)

Date: 06/25/2003

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: NT Funding for Indigenous Education

From: Mr WOOD to Honourable Syd STIRLING
Minister for Employment Education and Training

2-7

Question:

The budget highlights several Commonwealth funded indigenous education program. Can you tell us how many education programs specifically aimed at indigenous students are being funded by the Territory government, not the Commonwealth? What are the funds being provided for in those programs in 2003-04?

Answer:

Answered On: 06/27/2003

Answer: Details of NT Funding for Indigenous Education are attached.

QUESTION ON NOTICE 2.7

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OUTPUT GROUP

Non Government Education

OUTPUT

Primary Education / Secondary Education

RESPONSE

The following initiatives relate to Indigenous education and employment in 2003-04 and are funded by the Northern Territory.

Indigenous Apprentices **\$0.012 million**

The Traineeship and Apprenticeship program is run through OCPE and DCIS Entry Level Programs Unit. DEET has one Indigenous apprentice each year.

Indigenous Cadets **\$0.075 million**

Cadetships are offered through an agreement between OCPE and the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for Indigenous students studying for tertiary qualifications in education.

Seven cadets are paid by DEET for a maximum of thirteen weeks work placement at AO2 level each year plus accrued leave.

ITESS Trainees **\$0.234 million**

This program provides financial assistance for up to seventeen Indigenous students studying teaching at tertiary level. Students are required to work one to two days per week in a school environment.

Training for Remote Youth **\$1.000 million**

Training for Remote Youth targets youths aged between fourteen to nineteen years of age, who may not be attending school and are living in regional or remote localities of the Northern Territory. The program aims to improve the employability of youth at risk or those disengaged from education.

In 2003 there are thirty-nine programs in twenty-four remote communities. Five programs are being run in regional areas of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

Two-Way Learning Program **\$2.399 million**

The program aims to increase student learning outcomes in English oracy and literacy, numeracy, Indigenous languages, student attendance and parental and community involvement in educational decision making. There are currently twelve schools (and thirty-five staff) which offer formal Two-Way Learning Programs. These are Areyonga, Lajamanu, Maningrida, Milingimbi, Numbulwar, Nyirrpi, Papunya, Shepherdson College, Watiyawanu, Willowra, Yirkala and Yuendumu. Specialist resources to support Indigenous Languages and English are produced at four Language Resource Development Units currently located at Shepherdson College, Yirkala, Yuendumu and Maningrida.

English as a Second Language (ESL) \$6.439 million

(88% of NT ESL students are Indigenous)

The program specifically tailors instruction for students whose first language is not English. There are 53 General Support ESL teachers in schools. 11 ESL Coordinators are attached to Group schools or regional clusters of remote schools providing school based on-site and regional based ESL professional development to teachers and assistant teachers.

100 Additional Teachers (39 of) \$2.778 million

In 2001-02 the Northern Territory Government funded 100 additional teachers, commencing with 20 teachers in 2002 increasing to 100 over a four year period. In 2003-04 this number will reach 60 with the total funding at \$5.210 million. In 2002 and 2003, seventeen and twelve new teachers respectively, were assigned to remote, predominantly Indigenous student schools. It is also intended that a further ten of the additional teachers will be allocated to ESL Programs.

Accelerated Literacy \$0.211 million

Accelerated Literacy is a literacy approach which has significant results when used as an intervention method. The approach allows all students to engage in age appropriate learning and access the curriculum. It not only teaches students to speak, read and write, but also develops analytical and critical capacities required for higher level study and successful completion of schooling.

The Accelerated Literacy Project has been running for two years in six pilot schools in the Northern Territory. They are: Gillen Primary, ANZAC Hill High, Ludmilla Primary, Nightcliff High, Dripstone High and Ngukurr CEC. It is a partnership project between DEET and the University of Canberra.

The project is tracking approximately five hundred and seventy target students who were all found to be two years or more below their year levels in literacy. At least seventy percent of target students are Indigenous.

The Department is investing in the intensive training of 5 Coordinators who will become the NT's experts.

Capability Development Unit

\$0.325 million

The DEET Capability Development Unit, through the Supporting Schools Improving Student Outcomes Program, seeks to identify 'schools at risk' and coordinate appropriate and timely systemic support to improve student outcomes.

The unit has visited and is working with the following schools: Don Dale Education Centre, Milingimbi CEC, Jabiru Area School and Numbulwar CEC. In particular, positive steps have been made with Gapuwiyak and Gunbalanya CECs, two schools notably at risk.

This initiative is linked to the Alternative Education and the One Hundred Additional Teachers Initiatives.

Students with Learning Difficulties

\$0.458 million

Students are assessed in Yr 3, Yr 5 and Yr 7 against the national benchmark to measure literacy and numeracy standards known locally as the Multi-level Assessment Program (MAP). Students who fail to reach the benchmark level of attainment have learning difficulties that preclude them from accessing the whole of the school curriculum, which has both immediate and lifelong consequences. It is proposed that the funds identified are targeted to these students to improve their literacy and numeracy skills to reach and exceed benchmark levels.