

Department of Education and Training

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Committee Inquiries 2017 - 2018

Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Migration Amendment (Skilling Australians Fund) Bill 2017, and the Migration (Skilling  
Australians Fund) Charges Bill 2017 [provisions]

Public Hearing  
30 January 2018

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ18-000001

Questions from: Senator Doug Cameron

**Question 1**

How many states have raised the inclusion of training that has similar characteristics to an apprenticeship?

**Answer**

Mr Palmer subsequently answered this question.

See relevant Hansard text below:

*Mr Palmer: "My recollection—and these have been conversations that have been going for some time—is that all of the states are supportive of this approach to the funding."*

**Question 2**

Can you provide any documentation in relation to the discussions about funding available for training similar to an apprenticeship?

**Answer**

Providing working documents from these Commonwealth/State discussions may prejudice ongoing Commonwealth/State negotiations in respect of the Skilling Australians Fund.

**Question 3**

How much was the previous national partnership worth per annum?

**Answer**

**Table 1: National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform Funding**

|       | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2017-18 | Total   |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total | 238.4   | 238.4   | 377.2   | 377.4   | 516.3   | 1,747.7 |

This is an average of \$349.5m per year over five years.

**Question 4**

How many people are expected to be in-training at the end of the forward estimates?

**Answer**

The number of people in-training is a point in time measure of the number of active apprenticeship and traineeship training contracts. This figure is continuously adjusted by commencements, completions, recommencements, withdrawals and cancellations over time. It will also depend on the specific project proposals under SAF brought forward by the states and territories. Therefore, it is difficult to accurately estimate a future point in time figure.

Apprenticeships and traineeships are of varying durations and those supported through the Skilling Australians Fund may have commenced and completed within the four years and not all will be included in the in-training number at the end of the forward estimates.

#### **Question 5**

What is the cost of funding the 268,000 existing apprenticeships and traineeships?

#### **Answer**

States and territories are responsible for funding the training of apprentices and trainees. Each jurisdiction has their own state-specific funding model.

In addition, employers of apprentices and trainees, may be eligible for Commonwealth employer incentives through the demand driven Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. Australian Apprentices also receive support through the Commonwealth's Australian Apprenticeship Support Network and may also be eligible to access a Trade Support Loan. Australian Apprentices in their first or second year may also be eligible to receive support through the Industry Specialist Mentoring program.

#### **Question 6**

What percentage of the workforce does a 300,000 increase in the current apprentices and trainee numbers represent?

#### **Answer**

The 300,000 increase will be in commencements over four years. Expressing an increase in commencements (a flow figure over time) as a percentage of those in the labour force (a point in time stock figure) would be incommensurate.

#### **Question 7**

How is the base of 268,000 going to be maintained and then meet what the government's commitment in the budget is for an additional 300,000?

#### **Answer**

The 268,000 in-training and the 300,000 commencements over four year figures are different metrics and cannot be added.

#### **Question 8**

How much is it going to cost to maintain over the forward estimates the 268,000?

#### **Answer**

States and territories are responsible for funding the training of apprentices and trainees. Each jurisdiction has their own state-specific funding model.

In addition, employers of apprentices and trainees, may be eligible for Commonwealth employer incentives through the demand driven Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. Australian Apprentices also receive support through the Commonwealth's Australian Apprenticeship Support Network and may also be eligible to access a Trade Support Loan. Australian Apprentices in their first or second year may also be eligible to receive support through the Industry Specialist Mentoring program.

#### **Question 9**

How much it's going to cost for the 300,000?

#### **Answer**

With matched funding from the states, the estimated \$1.5 billion from the Commonwealth for the Skilling Australian Fund National Partnership will support up to 300,000 more apprentices, traineeship, pre-apprenticeships, pre-traineeships, higher level apprenticeships and employment related training.

**Question 10**

Have any trade unions been consulted on the Skilling Australians Fund?

**Answer**

Trade unions have not been specifically consulted on the Skilling Australians Fund.